



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

JANUARY 2010

www.dfobirders.org

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To the Sea and Shore with Bill Schmoker

Monday, January 25, 2010, 7.30pm

Through January's short days and cold temperatures the sun sweeps low across the southern sky and the symptoms of cabin fever can be detected within the ranks of the Denver Field Ornithologists. In the field, members scope another winter duck, hear the distant calls of another mountain chickadee, and long for a sprinkling of Colorado's beautiful spring warblers.

January's DFO presentation will be brought to us by the ever famous Mr. Bill Schmoker who will offer up a pleasant break from the winter doldrums. Imagine yourself with the sun on your back, a light sea breeze rustling the dune grasses, waves

gently breaking on the sandy beach, and your binoculars focused on a small flock of peeps moving in unison along

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January Field Trips

Friday, January 1 **Denver Urban Christmas Count**

Coordinator: Hugh Kingery. Get off to a flying start on your 2010 list! See information in December Lark Bunting. Contact leaders for meeting time and places. \$5.00 fee to National

Audubon Society.

Sunday, January 3

Walden Ponds

Join the Boulder Bird Club for their regularly scheduled "First Sunday Bird Walk" from 9 am 'til noon. From Denver, go west on US 36 to Foothills Parkway Exit (C157) then north to Arapahoe Avenue- east to 75th St, then north on 75th past Valmonth Road and the railroad track. Turn left at Wildlife Habitat sign. Follow road to Cottonwood Marsh parking lot. Always surprises! **Coordinator:** Lonny Frye 303-931-9131.

Saturday, January 9 **South Platte Park – Carson Nature Center**

Leader: Ed Holub 303-979-2194. Meet at 0800 at Nature Center parking lot, (north of Mineral Avenue, 1 block west of Santa Fe Drive, behind Aspen Grove shopping center). Raptors and waterfowl plus winter visitors and permanent residents at the Center's feeders.

Continued on next page

January Field Trips, continued

Sunday, January 10

Wheatridge Greenbelt

Leader: Kathanne Lynch, 303-526-0670, cell phone 303-968-4750. For people with other Sunday obligations, we'll meet at 10:30 at Prospect Lake north parking lot. Good picnic tables if you'd like to bring lunch. To reach lake, go south off 44th Avenue in Wheatridge between Quail and Robb Streets, West of Kipling. New leader ready to share the area's species with you.

Saturday, January 16

Belmar Historic Park

Leader: Karleen Schofield, 303-936-8661. Meet at 0900 at 800 S. Wadsworth. Turn west on Ohio Avenue from Wadsworth, straight ahead for 2 blocks into Irongate parking area next to the lake. ½ day trip, easy walking. Karleen really knows the area and its wildlife.

Sunday, January 17

Bear Creek Lake Park and Bear Creek Green Belt

Leader: Mike Henwood, 303-716-8551. Meet at 0800 at Park entrance (S.E. corner of Morrison Road and C470) \$5 fee per vehicle. ½ day trip. Mike checks the area regularly so will share his first-hand knowledge with you.

Saturday, January 23

Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

Leader: David Rhoades, 303-424-8633. Must register with leader for time and directions for this popular trip, with limited number of participants.

Sunday, January 24

Longmont Area

Leader: Chris Owens, 303 772-6048. Meet at 0830 at Jim Hamm Nature center. From I25 take Exit 240. Go west 4 miles on CO 119 to Boulder -Weld CO Line Road, then 2 miles north to park on left at E 17th Ave. Bring lunch as trip will end about 1 or 2 pm depending on weather and birds. State parks Pass may be needed.

Saturday, January 30

Cherry Creek State Park

Leader: Mary Keithler, 303 771-1421. Meet at 0830 at the marina for ½ day trip, lunch is optional. Bring scopes for "far-out" waterbirds and treetop hawks scanning for prey. Parks Pass required.

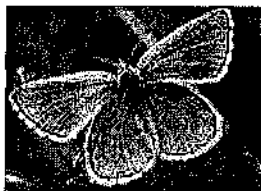
Sunday, January 31

88th and the Platte River

Leader: Chishun Kwong and Joanna Chan, 720-304-2073. Meet at 0900 at parking lot at 88th and the Platte for ½ day trip. Always ducks in the open water, hopefully Barrow's Goldeneye and Long-tailed Duck. Scopes would be helpful.

*The DFO board is requesting more volunteers to support the field trip scheduling task.
Call Chuck Thornton-Kolbe at 303.777.7588 if you can help with the phone calling.*

The Denver Post on December 4, 2009 in "Global Warning: Adapt or Die"



Some biologists point to how nature has handled the changing climate. The rare Adonis blue butterfly of Britain looked as if it was going to disappear because it couldn't fly far and global warming was making its habitat unbearable. To biologists' surprise, it evolved longer thoraxes and wings, allowing it to fly farther to cooler locales."

The rest of the article talks about the multiple complicated and expensive changes societies are already doing in order to adapt: Many communities and countries are working to improve flood control, Alaska is having to support pipelines that are under melting permafrost, Chicago is promoting rooftop vegetation and reflective roofs, floors of buildings are being raised in Thailand, and so on. The article quotes climate scientist Martin Parry, who said the world will need to create a triage system to figure out which living things can be saved, which can't and which don't need immediate help.

To the Sea and Shore with Bill Schmoker

the water's edge. Bill will sweep you away on this virtual journey to the sea and the shore focusing on North America's wonderful diversity of shorebirds, seabirds, and a few gulls.

DFO members know Bill as an engaging and knowledgeable speaker and amazing wildlife photographer. He is the past president of Colorado Field Ornithologists and a birder par excellence. Bill is a widely published wildlife photographer, an author, and most especially an outstanding public school science educator. He is also a member of the Nikon Birding ProStaff and lives with his wife and son in Longmont.

In March, 2005, DFO members were entertained and edified by Bill's story of Whitey, the Boulder County Steller's Jay. This unusual individual inexplicably lost its natural pigmentation turning from dark blue and black to white (Acquired Albinism) beginning in the summer of 2003. Bill published the full details of Whitey in the January, 2006, issue of *Colorado Birds* (Vol. 40, Number 1, pgs. 7 - 11). In January of 2006 Bill gave an auspicious start to our new birding year with his presentation "A Birder's New Year's Resolutions for 2006." Visit Bill at <http://schmoker.org> or <http://brdpics.blogspot.com>.

February 22, 2010

The always fascinating David Leatherman: birding, nature study of all kinds, and photography have always been his passions. Several of his bird photos have appeared in print, including covers of CFO Journal and Western Birds. He was the winner of Colorado DOW's Non-game Photo Contest in 1986. He has seen well over 400 bird species in Colorado and been part of three First State Records (Slaty-backed Gull, Tropical Parula, and Brown-crested Flycatcher (the latter pending RC approval). Dave was Editor of the CFO Journal during the mid-90's. He has led many field trips over the years, including several for DFO, and he has taught the unit on birds for the City of Fort Collins' Master Naturalists for the last 11 years or so.

The Denver Field Ornithologists monthly meetings are held in Ricketson Auditorium at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science in City Park. These meetings are free and open to the public and occur on the 4th Monday of each month August through April (except December). Park on the north side of the museum and walk around and enter through the museum's west door. Plan to arrive by 7:15pm; DOORS OPEN BY 7:00 AND ARE LOCKED AT 7:30pm. If late, you can enter through the security/volunteer door, but this creates problems for our hosts.

It's time to renew your membership—the form is on the inside last page...Thanks.

Welcome New Members!

Welcome back: Eleanor Baker, 9162 Cinnebar Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46268, 317.876.7023, Melva "Midge" Ball, 3404 S Pierce St, Lakewood, CO 80227, 303.985.8916, Robert Bethel, 918 Rockdale Dr, Dalton, GA 30720 706.529.3471, Wayne Haggerty, 6780 W 19th Pl #4-305, Lakewood, CO 80214, 303.990.4852, Kiki Widjaja, 4901 S Wadsworth Blvd #7, Littleton, Co 80123, 303.904.9432

Contributions

Colorado Rare Bird Alert: Doug & Jan Hodous, Monna Krebs, Bobbie & George Lohr, Joan & Jack Whiting, Robert Beck, Ted & Nancy Pinkert, Will Burt, MaryAnn Tavery, Ferd & Jo Dirckx, David Hill, Joyce Takamine, Kevin Corwin, Nina Routh.

Educational Endowment Fund: Chuck Hundertmark & Marjorie Jannotta, Joan & Jack Whiting, Ted & Nancy Pinkert, Will Burt, Diane & Jeff Carter, Lewis Picher, Lyn Graves, David Hill, Kevin Corwin, Ann Bonnell, Nina Routh,

Thank you!

November Additional Reports

Species	Date	# Seen	Location	County	Observers
Loon, red-throated	15-Nov	1 imm	Chatfield Reservoir	Jefferson	Joey Kellner, Steve Stachowiak
Loon, yellow-billed	27-Nov	1 imm	Jumbo Reservoir	Sedgwick	Jesse Barry, Joey Kellner, Chris Wood
Loon, arctic	5-Nov	1	Marston Res.	Denver	Bob Spencer
Bittern, American	27-Nov	1	Lower Latham	Weld	Jesse Barry, Joey Kellner, Chris Wood
Swan, tundra	26-Nov	2ad	Chatfield Reservoir	Jefferson	Paul Differding, Joey Kellner
Snow Goose	29-Nov	260	Franktown	Douglas	Hugh & Urling Kingery
Scoter, surf	7-Nov	2	Chatfield Reservoir	Jefferson	Mike Henwood, Joey Kellner, Nick Komar, Cole Wild
Scoter, surf	8-Nov	3	Eleven Mile Reservoir	Park	Lisa Edwards, Joey Kellner, Cole Wild
Scoter, surf	8-Nov	1 imm	Mt. Elbert Forebay	Lake	Lisa Edwards, Joey Kellner, Cole Wild
Scoter, surf	22-Nov	1 imm	Spinney Mountain Reservoir	Park	Joey Kellner
Scoter, white-winged	22-Nov	1	Spinney Mountain Reservoir	Park	Joey Kellner
Scoter, black	25-Nov	1f	Chatfield Reservoir	Jefferson	Paul Differding, Joey Kellner
Duck, Long-tailed	8-Nov	1 imm male, 1f	Turquoise Lake	Lake	Lisa Edwards, Joey Kellner, Cole Wild
Duck, Long-tailed	8-Nov	1 ad male	Dillon Reservoir	Summit	Lisa Edwards, Joey Kellner, Cole Wild
Duck, Long-tailed	22-Nov	1f	Antero Reservoir	Park	Joey Kellner
Goldeneye, Barrow's	8-Nov	3m, 2f	Mt. Elbert Forebay	Lake	Lisa Edwards, Joey Kellner, Cole Wild
Goldeneye, Barrow's	8-Nov	1m, 1f	Dillon Reservoir	Summit	Lisa Edwards, Joey Kellner, Cole Wild
Goldeneye, Barrow's	22-Nov	1m	Eleven Mile Reservoir	Park	Joey Kellner
Goldeneye, Barrow's	22-Nov	3m	Mt. Elbert Forebay	Lake	Joey Kellner
Goldeneye, Barrow's	22-Nov	5m, 4f	Dillon Reservoir	Summit	Joey Kellner
Goldeneye, Barrow's	29-Nov	1m	Cherry Creek Reservoir	Arapahoe	Joey Kellner
Osprey	26-Nov	1-1st year	Prince #2	Boulder	Bob Spencer
Goshawk, Northern	12-Nov	1 imm	Chatfield Reservoir	Douglas	Joey Kellner
Sandhill Crane	8-Nov	200	Franktown	Douglas	Dave Rapley
Jaeger, parasitic	11/5-12/2009	1	Chatfield Reservoir	Jefferson	Joey Kellner, Glenn Walbek, M. Obs.
Gull, lesser black-backed	27-Nov	1 ad	Lower Latham	Weld	Jesse Barry, Joey Kellner, Chris Wood
Gull, glaucous	27-Nov	1 imm	Lower Latham	Weld	Jesse Barry, Joey Kellner, Chris Wood
Owl, short-eared	27-Nov	5	Lower Latham	Weld	Jesse Barry, Joey Kellner, Chris Wood
VEERY	28-Nov	1 western race, LATE	Chatfield Reservoir	Jefferson	Paul Differding, Joey Kellner
Sparrow, swamp	27-Nov	1	Lower Latham	Weld	Jesse Barry, Joey Kellner, Chris Wood
White-throated Sparrow	Nov 12-18	1	Franktown	Douglas	Hugh & Urling Kingery
Finch, purple	25-Nov	1m, 1f	4430 Gladiola	Jefferson	Bob Spencer
Pine Siskin	Nov 26	175	Gateway Mesa	Douglas	Hugh & Urling Kingery

Please send your reports to Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 1221 E Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

DFO Tax Status as Charity

The DFO remains a registered non-profit corporation with the State of Colorado. However, our status with the IRS has not been clarified in 17 years. We have recently become aware that the IRS does not have accurate information about the Denver Field Ornithologists. In the eyes of the IRS, the Denver Field Ornithologists is not currently a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Please do not deduct any contributions to the Denver Field Ornithologists as tax deductible in the 2009 tax year. We are working to clarify our tax status with the IRS, but this could take some time (at least six months)."

By Feeding the Birds, You Could Change Their Evolutionary Fate

ScienceDaily (Dec. 4, 2009) — Feeding birds in winter is a most innocent human activity, but it can nonetheless have profound effects on the evolutionary future of a species, and those changes can be seen in the very near term. That's the conclusion of a report published online on December 3rd in *Current Biology*, showing that what was once a single population of birds known as blackcaps has been split into two reproductively isolated groups in fewer than 30 generations, despite the fact that they continue to breed side by side in the very same forests.

The reproductive isolation between these populations, which live together for part of the year, is now stronger than that of other blackcaps that are always separated from one another by distances of 800 kilometers or more, the researchers said. "Our study documents the profound impact of human activities on the evolutionary trajectories of species," said Martin Schaefer of the University of Freiburg. "It shows that we are influencing the fate not only of rare and endangered species, but also of the common ones that surround our daily lives."

The split that the researchers observed followed the recent establishment of a migratory divide between southwest- and northwest-migrating blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) populations in Central Europe after humans began offering food to them in the winter. The two groups began to follow distinct migratory routes -- wintering in Spain and the United Kingdom -- and faced distinct selective pressures. Under that pressure, the two groups have since become locally adapted ecotypes. (Ecotypes represent the initial step of differentiation among populations of the same species, the researchers explained. If ecotypes continue down that path, they can ultimately become separate species.)

"The new northwest migratory route is shorter, and

those birds feed on food provided by humans instead of fruits as the birds that migrate southwest do," Schaefer said. "As a consequence, birds migrating northwest have rounder wings, which provide better maneuverability but make them less suited for long-distance migration." They also have longer, narrower bills that are less equipped for eating large fruits like olives during the winter.

Schaefer says it isn't clear whether the ecotypes will ever become separate species; in fact, he doubts they will because the habits of humans will tend to change over time. Even so, the findings do speak to the long-

standing debate about whether geographic separation is necessary for speciation to occur. In particular, it had been contentious whether selection could act strongly and consistently enough in sympatry to separate a united gene pool.

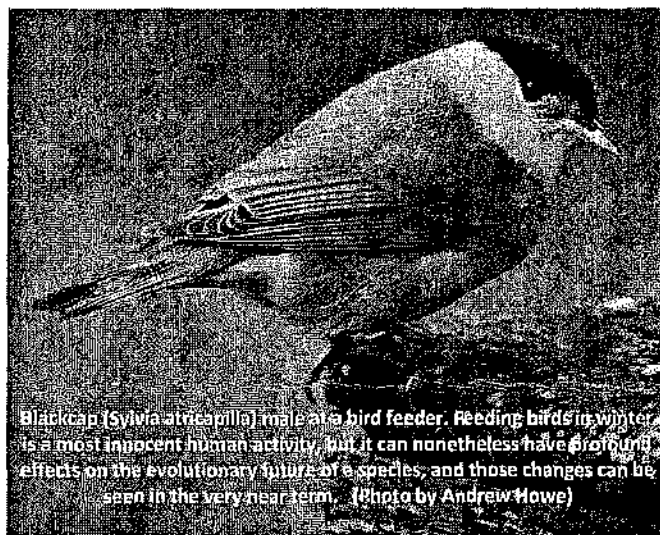
"In highly mobile organisms such as birds, the consensus is that sympatric speciation is extremely rare, mainly because it is difficult to envisage how gene pools could be kept separate until speciation has occurred," Schaefer said. "Our

results now show that the initial steps of speciation can occur very quickly in a highly mobile, migratory bird," because divergent selection during the overwintering phase leads to the evolution of reproductive isolation.

"This is a nice example of the speed of evolution," he added. "It is something that we can see with our own eyes if we only look closely enough. It doesn't have to take millions of years."

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/12/091203132144.htm>

The authors include Gregor Rolshausen, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany; Gernot Segelbacher, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany; Keith A. Hobson, Environment Canada, Saskatoon, Canada; and H. Martin Schaefer, University of Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany



Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) male at a bird feeder. Feeding birds in winter is a most innocent human activity, but it can nonetheless have profound effects on the evolutionary future of a species, and those changes can be seen in the very near term. (Photo by Andrew Howe)

Educational Endowment Grant

The Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO) has a limited amount of funds available annually to persons or organizations who apply for grants. The emphasis of an acceptable grant shall be for projects that educate the public concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats as well as preservation.

Guidelines for application:

Applications for grants must be typed and submitted to the DFO Board by February 28, 2010.

1. Describe in detail the project (s) and state the amount of funds requested.
2. The applicant may be asked to present the proposal in person before the Board.
3. Grants will be announced at April 2010 meeting.

Grant recipients must submit a written report to the Board at the completion of the project and may be asked to make a presentation to the membership.

Please send application to DFO member Tina Jones, 4400 Bow Mar Dr., Littleton, CO 80123 or e-mail tjcalliope@aol.com or call Chris Blakeslee 303.694.4670 for more information.

DFO Educational Endowment Grant Application (Fill in or attach requested information)

Name of Applicant		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone (W) (H) (C)		
Individual or organization to receive grant		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone (W) (H) (C)		
Description of Project:		
What are the anticipated starting and completion dates:		
Amount of funding requested:		
Details of how funds will be used:		
Other information for the DFO Board's consideration:		
Signature _____ Date _____		

November Field Trip Summaries

Nov 1, Sunday *Scoter Trip (SCO)*

Leader(s): Joey Kellner. **Observers:** Bill Buttner, Kate Frost, Ira Sanders, Tammy Sanders, Dick Schottler, Connie Steinkamp. **Time:** 0630-1700. **Distance:** 320 miles by car, 1 mile on foot. **Weather:** Mostly clear, 24-56°F, northwest wind, 5-12mph. **Totals:** 51 species, 8718 individuals.

Nov 7, Saturday *Chatfield State Park (CHA)*

Leader(s): Dick Schottler. **Observers:** Mary C Burger, Patty Echelmeyer, Becky Eeds, Warren Finch, Jean Frazier, David Gilman, AJ Iseman, Shelly Iseman, Dianna Johnston, Mary Keithler, Joey Kellner, Alison Kondler, Chris Owens, Dick Prickett, Sue Schulman, Bob Shade, Bob Spencer, Mark Wallace, Chuck Walters, Roni Wilson. **Time:** 0800-1315. **Distance:** 8 miles by car, 1 mile on foot. **Weather:** Mostly clear, 50-70°F, calm. **Totals:** 43 species, 789 individuals.

Nov 8, Sunday *Castlewood Canyon State Park (CAS)*

Leader(s): Hugh and Urling Kingery. **Observers:** Carol and Clint Flynn, Jeannie Mitchell, Kelly Shipe, Derek Hankins, Jackie Heyda, Bob Heyda, Merikay Haggerty, Steve and Jean Stevenson, Kiki Widjaja, Karen Von Saltza, Michael Kiessig, Mary Cay Burger. **Time:** 0800-1230. **Distance:** 26 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lake (open water), cliff, scrub oak, mixed conifer, shrubland. **Weather:** Cloudy, 50°F, slight wind. **Totals:** 35 species, 548 individuals.

Highlights: Two large flocks of pine siskins, 75 & 50, circling back and forth over the cliffs. A flock of sandhill cranes far to the east of the Winkler Ranch – about 200 – circling and climbing higher.

Nov 14, Saturday *Belmar Historic Park (BEL)*

Leader(s): Karleen Schofield. **Observers:** Rick Creswell, Nancy Dunkel, George Griffin, Ira Sanders, Deb Wittwer. **Time:** 0900-1230. **Distance:** ¾ mile on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, manmade lake, grass/meadow areas, elevation 5500'. **Weather:** Cold, damp, overcast, 34-38°F, calm. **Totals:** 29 species, 348 individuals.

Highlights: Merlin (winter migrant and park record), Eurasian Collared-Dove (first record for park)

Nov 15, Sunday *Roxborough State Park (ROX)* Trip cancelled due to weather.

Nov 21, Saturday *Walk Along the Platte (WAL)*

Leader(s): Sue Schulman. **Observers:** John Alden, Jean Alden, Gary Brower, Rick Creswell, Derek Hankins, Claire Montour, Mary Zick. **Time:** 0800-1150. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** River, ponds, woods, elevation 5550'. **Weather:** Cool and windy, 45°F, south wind, 15mph. **Totals:** 34 species, 399 individuals.

Highlights: Six Great Blue Herons scattered along the river and a wonderful look at a male Merlin that Bob Shade identified and got in the scope.

Nov 22, Sunday *Longmont Area (LON)*

Leader(s): Chris Owens. **Observers:** Patty Echelmeyer, Wayne Johnston, Kris Koff, Lou Mazzola, Jim Petri, Chuck Walters, Larry and Roni Wilson. **Time:** 0800-1330. **Distance:** 20 miles by car. **Habitat:** Ponds and lakes, agriculture, natural areas. **Weather:** Partly cloudy to clear, 40-50°F, variable wind, 4-7mph. **Totals:** 42 species, 2536 individuals.

Highlights: Ring-necked pheasant call, Sharp-shinned hawk, three white-tailed deer.

Nov 27, Friday *Platte River Greenway (PLA)* Report not available at time of printing.

Nov 28, Saturday *Pueblo (PUE)*

Leader(s): Ira and Tammy Sanders. **Observers:** Corrinne Bartell, Joe Bartell, Sue Classen, Gail Evans, Nancy Osborn, Chris Owens, Brandon Percival, Jim Petri, Connie Steinkamp, Rick Steinkamp. **Time:** 0630-1500. **Distance:** 232 miles by car, ¼ mile on foot. **Habitat:** Open lake, pinion/juniper, city park pond. **Weather:** Partly cloudy to cloudy, 25-56°F, north wind, 0-7mph. **Totals:** 64 species, 2275 individuals.

Highlights: Bonaparte's Gulls sitting in a tree and an injured Ross' Goose running through the rabbit brush.

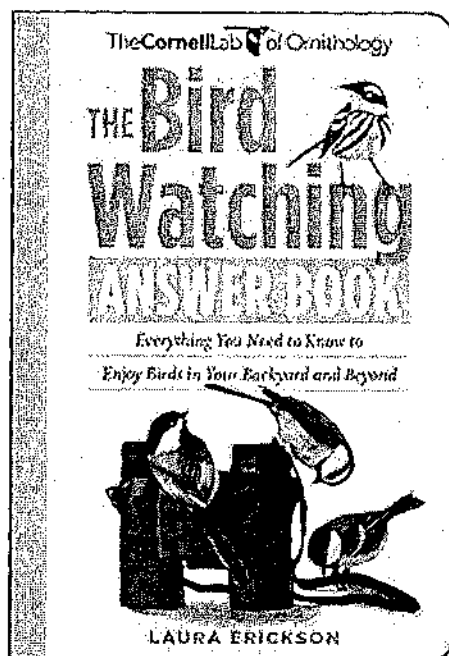
Nov 29, Sunday *Rigli Ranch (RIG)*

Leader(s): Joe Rigli. **Observers:** Clint and Carol Flynn, Becca Hammons, Lou Mazzola. **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 11 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian woodlands, sandhill/sagebrush, short and tall grass prairie, ponds, elevation 4330'. **Weather:** Cool, calm, clear, sunny, 32-42°F. **Totals:** 15 species, 101 individuals.

Highlights: A very large female golden eagle perched on a tall, metal electrical pole; two ferruginous hawks, male and female,

Continued on page 9

Bird Watching Answer Book



From Cornell LAB of Ornithology

Ithaca, NY—Why is a cardinal attacking my windows? (p.87) Will birds explode if they eat rice thrown after a wedding? (p.17) How can I keep squirrels out of my bird feeders? (p.37) Do birds play? (p.268) Why don't birds fall off branches as they sleep? (p. 305)

For years, bird expert and Cornell Lab of Ornithology science editor Laura Erickson has heard questions like these and hundreds more. Now, drawing on questions that come to the Cornell Lab, she's compiled answers to more than 200 common and not-so-common bird questions in a handy pocket-sized book that reads like a conversation with your friendly neighborhood "bird lady."

Author and bird expert Kenn Kaufman says, "This is a gem of a book! It's filled to the brim with solid, reliable information, as you would expect from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and it's written in Laura Erickson's clear, lively, engaging style. The organization of the book, as a series of answers to hundreds of intriguing questions, makes it easy to look up quick facts or to

just browse for fun. I would recommend *The Bird Watching Answer Book* to anyone with even a casual interest in birds."

The Bird Watching Answer Book, produced by Storey Publishing, is organized into three sections: watching and feeding birds, bird behavior, and bird biology. In addition to down-to-earth scientific answers, readers will find plenty of quirky stories and interesting asides like these:

- Turkey Vultures have been used to detect gas pipeline leaks because of their great sense of smell.
- American Crows can remember human faces.
- The Brown Thrasher holds the record for knowing the most songs: 2,000.
- The largest individual bird nest on record weighed nearly three tons.
- Feathers are made of a substance found in no other animal tissue except alligator claws.

Four American presidents kept pet mockingbirds in the White House. (Jefferson named his bird "Dick.")

"Whether people like birds or not, they notice them," says Erickson. "My hope is that, with the book, people start noticing not just that birds are there, but that they're really cool beings sharing this planet with us."

Erickson has written three previous books and is a past winner of the National Outdoor Book Award. She also writes Twin Beaks, the first blog by birds and for birds.

#

Note: To request a review copy of this book, please contact Michelle Blackley at Storey Publishing, Michelle.Blackley@storey.com, (413) 346-2184. Laura Erickson is available for interviews upon request. Call or email Pat Leonard at (607) 254-2137, pe127@cornell.edu.

So Sayeth the Speaker....

"The Chihuahuan Desert, Critical Winter Habitat for Colorado Birds"

Presented by Greg Levandoski from RMBO, November 23, 2009, Summary of the Presentation by Mary Cay Burger.

"Fasten your seatbelts!" We are off to get a birds-eye view of the Chihuahuan Desert where many of our Colorado grassland birds spend the winter. Why? North America's prairie birds concentrate in a limited area in the American Southwest and northern Mexico for the winter and there has been a 60% average decline in bird populations over the past 40 years. For example, we have lost 80% of the Sprague's pipits in that time. Other species using these areas are lark buntings, mountain plovers, long-billed curlews, ferruginous hawks, chestnut-collared longspurs, Baird's and grasshopper sparrows to name a few. Using Google Earth, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) ornithologist, Greg Levandoski, took us to outer space and then zoomed in on northern Mexico and closer still to Mexico's nine Grassland Priority Conservation Areas (GPCA). You could see the geometric pattern of farm fields and pivot irrigation circles. Around the farms are cattle ranches and huge areas of community-owned grassland and barren desert.

RMBO has a goal of using scientific study to guide conservation efforts with a focus on priority species. They have set up 212 survey blocks in the nine GPCAs and after only a few years of data collection they have shown that bird species prefer certain winter habitats. Some of the factors they have found important are grass cover and shrub cover. The thickness and height of the grasses are important with some birds preferring tall grass, and some preferring short grass. RMBO has also identified the most significant threats posed to these habitats. They include grassland conversion to agriculture, desertification, mesquite invasion, poor management, and loss of keystone species such as prairie dogs. Some of these threats are reversible, but if undertake, these efforts would require much time and expense.

Lesson learned: The Chihuahuan Desert of Mexico is important to the conservation of our Colorado grassland bird species. While much research has been done on the breeding grounds, more study is needed on the wintering grounds to determine the factors of a healthy range for the survival of both the habitat and the birds. Find more information online at "<http://www.RMBO.org>"

November Summaries, continued.

flying low over a prairie dog town searching for their prey; a beautiful male Richardson's pigeon hawk or merlin perched in a plain's cottonwood tree surveying the countryside for its prey of small birds, and a very large horned lark with a bright yellow throat and forehead feeding on the ground with three or four smaller horned larks (this bird may have come here from the far north, possibly Canada or Alaska).

Tuesday Birders

Nov 3 *South Platte Park/Carson Nature Center (SOU)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 42. **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Gravel ponds, riparian, cottonwood, willow, cattails, bicycle trail, elevation 5600'. **Weather:** Sunny, 42-65°F, southwest wind, 0-3mph. **Totals:** 36 species, 434 individuals.

Nov 10 *Waterton Canyon (WAT)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 31. **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 4 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Plains, riparian, grassland, cottonwood, willow, rock outcrops, elevation 5400'. **Weather:** Clear, calm, 47-65°F, east wind, 0-4mph. **Totals:** 26 species, 107 individuals.

Nov 17 *Chatfield Park (CHA)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 26. **Time:** 0900-1345. **Distance:** 10 miles by car, 1/3 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Large reservoir, riparian, prairie grass, cottonwood, grassy areas, shoreline, elevation 5430'. **Weather:** Sunny, calm, 34-50°F. **Totals:** 37 species, 521 individuals.

Nov 24 *Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 26. **Time:** 0900-1340. **Distance:** 11 miles by car, 3/4 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Lake, riparian/cottonwood, wetlands, grasslands, elevation 5550'. **Weather:** Sunny, 32-46°F, calm. **Totals:** 33 species, 715 individuals.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

PRESIDENT

Charles Thornton-Kolbe, 2284 S Josephine Street, Denver CO 80210, 303.777.7588
Charles@pibird.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Lynn Willcockson, 2698 S Niagara, Denver CO 80224 303.757.7000
lynnliz2698@aol.com

TREASURER

Bob Shade, 9353 W Nevada Place, Lakewood CO 80226-3029, 303.975.2476
WRSHADE3@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Sue Schulman, 6024 E Briarwood Drive, Centennial CO 80112-1030, 303.773.3540
suemschulman@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

Rick and Connie Steinkamp (12)
ricconcal@comcast.net
John Drummond (12)
jxdrummo@aol.com
Carol Blackard (11)
carol-blackard@comcast.net
Ira Sanders (11) greatauk@msn.com
Nifia Routh (10) nrouth@copper.net
Chris Blakeslee (10) chrisabla@aol.com

Membership Chair and Past President

Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742 303.771.3431
mcburger3@juno.com

HISTORIAN

Warren Finch, 303.233.3372

FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS

Patty Echelmeyer, 303.233.4947,
Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct
Jackie King, 303.287.1644,
Feb, May, Aug, Nov
Meredith Anderson, 303.280.8576
Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec

Lark Bunting Editor/Webmaster

Veronica Holt, 303.646.3829
veronicaholt@Q.com

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Dick Kolbe, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, trip reports from the previous month, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome and openly solicited. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dFOBirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80232, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net.

Additional Reports

Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 1221 E Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128 dacbcCook@comcast.net

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, cris@pcisys.net

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson meander303@mac.com

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303-771-1421, email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is back-up contact person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email d_d_hill@comcast.net.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Denver Field Ornithologists 2010 Membership Application

Please
indicate:

☐ New Membership

☐ Renewal

***All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year
if paid after October 1st.***

☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00

☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00

For those who wish to have the field trip reports mailed to them, rather than downloading from the DFO web site, please add an additional \$10 to your regular membership.

☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

☐ Contribution to the Colorado Rare Bird Alert \$ _____

With the Rock Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sightings of rare or unusual birds, located on the Colorado Field Ornithologists website.

☐ Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund \$ _____

DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Electronic Lark Bunting Email address: _____

Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742

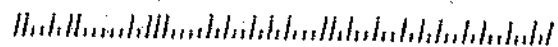
Happy New Birding Year!

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742

Kathie Gully
Alfred M Bailey Library & Archives
Denver Museum Nature & Science
2001 Colorado Blvd.,
Denver CO 80205-5798

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80205-5798



FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE JANUARY 2010

SPECIES DATE LOCATION	DFO FIELD TRIPS								TUESDAY BIRDERS			TOTAL
	9 SOU	10 WHE	16 BEL	17 BEA	23 ROC	24 LON	30 CHE	31 PLA	12 SOU	16 RED	26 SOU	
Pied-billed Grebe	6				2			4	8		4	23
Great Blue Heron	1	1				1	2		6			11
Black-crowned Night-Heron									7			7
Snow Goose					7							7
"White morph"					5							(5)
"Blue morph"					2							(2)
Canada Goose	3000	132	80	40	1013	2500	1060	100	350		254	8529
Cackling Goose	25											25
Gadwall	6	32			2	5		80	35		63	222
American Wigeon	1	2		4				2			8	17
Mallard	65	70	48	140	86	8	13	30	171		52	683
Northern Shoveler	60	450	8	1	60			200	80		540	1399
Northern Pintail				2				50			84	136
Green-winged Teal	3	12			5		9	16	7		74	125
Canvasback	2	5	1		25		2					35
Redhead	20				1			30			11	62
Ring-necked Duck	20				4		6	15	24		30	99
Lesser Scaup	2	1			5			1	6		4	19
Long-tailed Duck								3			3	6
Bufflehead	50	6			2		1	40	47		89	235
Common Goldeneye	25	15	2	4	8	14	1	300	30		79	478
Barrow's Goldeneye								4			4	8
Hooded Merganser	15	1	4	12	12		4	1	9		2	60
Common Merganser	2		3	1	15	62	15	1	13			112
Red-breasted Merganser							2	4			1	7
Ruddy Duck											2	2
Bald Eagle	1				6	4		3			2	16
Northern Harrier				2	2	4	1	2				11
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1				1	1					3
Cooper's Hawk		1		2						1		4
Red-tailed Hawk	5	1	1	4	7	26	6	5	7	2	4	68
western races							(5)					(5)
"Harris's" race							1					(1)
Ferruginous Hawk					3							3
Rough-legged Hawk						1					1	2
Golden Eagle					1							1
American Kestrel	2			5	2	13	2		2	1	4	31
Prairie Falcon	1					1				1	1	4
Ring-necked Pheasant							1					1
American Coot	4	6			3		12		11		64	100
Killdeer							3					3
Long-billed Dowitcher												0
Wilson's Snipe			1									1
Red-necked Phalarope												0
Ring-billed Gull	65	111	103		35	7	70	80	13		300	784

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE JANUARY 2010

SPECIES DATE LOCATION	DFO FIELD TRIPS									TUESDAY BIRDERS			TOTAL
	9	10	16	17	23	24	30	31		12	18	26	
	SOU	WHE	BEL	BEA	ROC	LON	CHE	PLA		SOU	RED	SOU	
California Gull							10						10
Herring Gull							2						2
Ivory Gull													0
Rock Pigeon	50	8	14	6	35	160	40	20		3	6	18	358
Eurasian Collared-dove						171							171
Great Horned Owl	1			1	1								3
Rufous Hummingbird													0
Belted Kingfisher	3	2	1	1				1		4		3	15
Downy Woodpecker	2		1		4	1		2				1	11
Hairy Woodpecker													0
Northern Flicker	3	13	1	6		2	6			5	2		37
"Red-shafted" race	(3)	(13)	(1)				(5)						(22)
Buff-breasted Flycatcher													0
Northern Shrike											1		1
Blue Jay				1									1
Western Scrub-Jay				6							8		14
Black-billed Magpie	2		1	10	3	5	7			6	4	8	46
American Crow	2	15	15	20				6		2	2	14	75
Common Raven	1		1	1		3				1	2		9
Horned Lark					12	12							24
Black-capped Chickadee	7	9	5	5		4	1			2	5		38
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	3		1	9								15
Canyon Wren											2		2
American Dipper				2							1		3
Townsend's Solitaire				1	1						6		8
American Robin	1			65		1	1	2			38		108
European Starling	55	6	18	12	37	3000	40			120		4	3292
American Pipit								6					6
Spotted Towhee				2							2		4
American Tree Sparrow	7			8	11					2		1	29
Chipping Sparrow											1		1
Fox Sparrow													0
Song Sparrow	8		1	4	1	1					1	2	18
White-crowned Sparrow				2		7					4		13
Golden-crowned Sparrow				1							1		2
Dark-eyed Junco				40	20						35		95
"White-winged" race				1							1		(2)
"State-colored" race				(3)							2		(5)
"Oregon" race				(4)							6		(10)
"Pink-sided" race				14							8		(22)
"Gray-headed" race				18							18		(36)
Red-winged Blackbird	40			7	19	80	4	5		12			147
Western Meadowlark								1					1
Brewer's Blackbird						75		1					78
Cassin's Finch											1		1
House Finch	25	10	11	18	37		2	1		3	21		128
American Goldfinch	1	5			2					1			9
House Sparrow	25		21	1		30				3			80
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	3614	916	241	438	1498	8179	1323	1014		990	149	1731	16,180
TOTAL SPECIES	41	26	22	36	37	29	28	32		31	24	33	76

OBSERVATION LEGEND:

a=adult, i=immature, j=juvenile, y=young, n=nesting, m=male, f=female, h=heard only,
c=calling, s=singing, boldface=rare/unusual, +=also/in addition to,
x=individual data incomplete/not enumerated

South Platte Park - Carson Nature Center (SOU)

Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (WHE)

Belmar Historic Park (BEL)

Bear Creek Lake Park and Greenbelt (BEA)

Rocky Mountain Arsenal (ROC)

Longmont Area (LON)

Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)

88th and the Platte River (PLA)

South Platte Park - Carson Nature Center (SOU)

Rocks and Morrison Parks (RED)

South Platte River at 88th Ave (SOU)



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

FEBRUARY 2010

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 45, Number 2

David Leatherman and the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Colorado



Plains Clutail
Photo by David Leatherman

Monday, February 22, 2010

February finds David Allen Leatherman making a return visit to DFO's podium from his northern Front Range haunts of Ft. Collins and its environs. Warning: David states, "No one prone to Nature addictions should attend, because these creatures (the "odes") can hook you."

Before you say, "Where are the birds?" remember David's last amazing presentation to DFO, in March of 2008, titled "Learning More About Birding by Learning More About What Birds Eat." On that evening he convincingly illustrated for us that a broader understanding of the natural world and its interrelationships will enable us to find more birds!

While in the field birding we have all observed dragonflies and damselflies, the "odes" (Insect Order Odonata), patrolling the edges of streams and ponds and "hawking" for insects over meadows or open fields. Dragonflies and damselflies begin their lives in the water and emerge to become skillful terrestrial predators; some consider them to be the insect equivalents of mountain lions

Continued on page 3

February Field Trips



Saturday, February 6 *Longmont*

Leader: Chris Owens, 303-772-6048. View the birds and wildlife in Longmont. Meet leader at 08:30 at Jim Hamm Nature Center – From I-25 take exit 240. Go west 4 miles on CO 119 to Boulder-Weld Co. Line Road, then 2 miles north to park on left at E. 17th Ave. Bring lunch and drinking water as trip will go 'til one or two pm.

Sunday, February 7 *Eastern Plains Raptors*

Leader: Joey Kellner, 303-978-1748. This trip will go into the eastern plains of Colorado looking for wintering raptors. Meet leader at 0700 at the Division of Wildlife, 6060 No. Broadway – Exit I-25 at 58th Ave., go west 2 blocks to Broadway, then north two blocks to parking lot on right. Bring lunch and drinking water. State Parks pass may be needed.

Saturday, February 13 *Valley Country Club in Arapahoe County*

Leader: Mary Cay Burger, 303-771-3431. Meet Leader at 8:00am at the west end of the parking lot. Bring lunch, water, and wear hiking/snow boots. Between I-25 and Parker Rd drive Arapahoe Rd to Jordan Road. Go north on Jordan Rd about a quarter of a mile. Turn right at the stop sign at East Caley Ave. Proceed east until you enter the parking lot of Valley Country Club. We will be exploring 27 acres of undeveloped land along Cherry Creek plus the golf course and ponds. Beginners welcome!

February Field Trips, continued

Sunday, February 14 *Gateway Mesa and Kingery feeders*

Leaders: Urling & Hugh Kingery, 303-814-2723 (cell -- use only on day of trip -- 303-641-8823). Meet at 0900 at Gateway Mesa Open Space parking lot; (no outhouse). We'll hike 2-3 miles along Gateway Mesa, on east edge of Castle Rock, then go to the Kingerys' house for lunch. Bring your lunch and your valentine, if you want.

- ☐ On I-25 go south to Exit 184; left (over I-25) on Founders Parkway, a/k/a Colo. 86, and continue 4.5 miles to a traffic light (Founder's Marketplace on SW corner). Turn left (east) on Colo. 86. Go about a mile to the next traffic light (Enderud Blvd. on right, High Point on left); about 1/2 mile east of the Enderud traffic light, as the highway starts down the hill, turn right into the Gateway Mesa Open Space Parking Lot.
- ☐ From Parker Road, turn right at the traffic light in Franktown. Go west about three miles -- the highway climbs a hill as it swings left. Almost at the top of the hill, turn left into the Gateway Mesa parking lot. [It's hard to see the Gateway Mesa entrance (especially coming from Franktown), but the entrance has brown signs in both directions.]

Saturday, February 20 *Chatfield State Park*

Leader: Ed Holub, 303-979-2194. Meet leader at 0800 at the swim beach inside west entrance of park off S. Wadsworth, 1½ miles south of C-470. This will be a half day trip, lunch optional. State Parks Pass required.

Sunday, February 21 *Roxborough State Park*

Leader: Doris Cruze, 303-798-8072. Meet leader at 0800 at the Visitor's Center for a three and a half-hour walking tour on an easy trail. Participants should see golden eagles and species common in the foothills. State Parks Pass required or \$5 entrance fee per car. Lunch will be optional but there is a beautiful place to sit on the patio and watch the birds as you eat lunch. Take S. Wadsworth Blvd. past Chatfield S.P. to Waterton Rd on left. Take Waterton Rd. 1.6 miles east to North Rampart Range Rd., turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Rd. Turn left and follow signs to the park (2.2 miles). This is an excellent trip for novice birders and new members.

Saturday, February 27 *88th and the Platte River*

Leader: Lou Mazzola, 303-666-2142. Meet leader at 0800 at E. 88th and the South Platte River -- From I-76 take E. 88th Ave. exit, go west on 88th for 1.6 miles then turn south at Colorado Blvd. Turn left again into the parking lot for the South Platte River Greenway Trailhead. This will be a half day trip walking on paved trails which will end by noon so lunch is optional.

Sunday, February 28 *Wheat Ridge Greenbelt*

Leader: Patty Echelmeyer, 303-233-4947. Meet leader at 0830 at Prospect Park Lake, south of West 44th Ave. just east of Robb St. This will be an easy walk along mostly wheelchair accessible trails and will finish by noon so lunch is optional. Do bring drinking water.

This is your last issue of the Lark Bunting — unless you sent in your 2010 membership to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742.

The membership form is on the inside back cover of this issue.

Dragonflies and Damselflies of Colorado

and bobcats respectively. These insects have amazing adaptations including compound eyes which contain as many as 30,000 lenses, giving these creatures a complete 360 degree view of the world around them. And dragonflies "invented" jet propulsion as an escape maneuver over 300 million years ago.

Many birders know that during the mating and egg laying process the male dragonfly or damselfly will grasp the female by the neck and they will fly in tandem. In 1934 Arthur Cleveland Bent documented an astounding event in Ontario in which a huge dragonfly had grabbed a ruby-throated hummingbird by the neck and was holding it on the ground until the human observers intervened.

In "The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Colorado" David will try to tie in as much bird information as possible, but essentially the presentation will be about this group of "watchable" insects. He will discuss the names, lore, and lives of the Order Odonata, and also survey the major groups present in Colorado. Currently the unofficial state roster stands at 105-108 species, with a potential for 5 or so more. The talk will be accompanied by David's photographs.

David was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. While still in junior high school his interest in birds was triggered by the sighting and identification of a male Blackburnian Warbler, which is still his favorite bird. He earned a degree in biology from Marietta College, and a Master of Forestry degree from Duke University. From 1974 to 2005 he was employed as a forest entomologist with the Colorado State Forest Service with a primary focus on the mountain pine beetle. He has been a longtime member of the Colorado Field Ornithologists and is a former editor of the CFO Journal. He also served as an adjunct faculty member in CSU's Bioagricultural Science and Pest Management Department. He has a major interest in birds and their food habits, and is an award winning wildlife photographer. He has seen well over 400 bird species in Colorado and has played a significant part in three First State Bird Records for Colorado: Slaty-backed Gull, Tropical Parula, and Brown-crested Flycatcher. He also has collected numerous specimens for CSU's Gillette Museum of Arthropod Diversity and has contributed at least five species of insects new to science and dozens of new state records. He credits Roseate Skimmers found in Fort Collins in 2007 and his friends Bill and Inez Prather for his newfound interest in "odes." Join David for a most informative evening examining another fascinating aspect of Colorado's natural world.

For more information on "odes" see: *Bagging Big Bugs* (1995) and also a *Guide to Colorado Insects* (2006), both by Whitney Cranshaw and Boris Kondratieff of Colorado State University *Dragonflies through Binoculars* (2000) by Sidney W. Dunkle

To the Sea and Shore with Bill Schmoker

Monday, January 25, 2010, 7.30pm

January's DFO presentation will be brought to us by the ever famous Mr. Bill Schmoker who will offer up a pleasant break from the winter doldrums. Imagine yourself with the sun on your back, a light sea breeze rustling the dune grasses, waves gently breaking on the sandy beach, and your binoculars focused on a small flock of peeps moving in unison along the water's edge. Bill will sweep you away on this virtual journey to the sea and the shore focusing on North America's wonderful diversity of shorebirds, seabirds, and a few gulls. Visit Bill at <http://schmoker.org> or <http://brdpics.blogspot.com>.

Upcoming Meetings: March 22, 2010: Bill Schmoker -- Electronic Aids for Birders, April 26, 2010: Nathan Pieplow -- Spring Migrant Refresher Course on Calls and Songs.

The Denver Field Ornithologists monthly meetings are held in Ricketson Auditorium at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science in City Park. These meetings are free and open to the public and occur on the 4th Monday of each month August through April (except December). Park on the north side of the museum and walk around and enter through the museum's west door. Plan to arrive by 7:15pm; **DOORS OPEN BY 7:00 AND ARE LOCKED AT 7:30pm**. If late, you can enter through the security/volunteer door, but this creates problems for our hosts.

December Additional Reports

Species	Date	# Seen	Location	County	Observers
Chipping sparrow	19-Dec	1	Red Rocks Park	Jefferson	Bob Brown
Golden-crowned sparrow	19-Dec	1	Red Rocks Park	Jefferson	Bob Brown

Please send your reports to Polieke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 1221 E Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

This photo of a male Barrow's Goldeneye was taken by Richard Holmes Anderson. Chuck Thornton-Kolbe and I were looking for the bird on the South Platte, and bumped into Richard, who was kind enough to share this photo. Both a male and a female were on the river, along with at least 12 other water bird species.

Veronica Holt.



Denver Field Ornithologist (DFO) Board Reportor "How the Sausage is Made"

The DFO Board of Directors met the evening of October 8, 2009, and discussed the following items and issues:

- ☐ Warren Finch, DFO historian, discussed DFO's historical documents preservation. Warren has, in his files, as complete a collection of Colorado Bird Club (1935-1967) and DFO documents as anyone, including some one-of-a-kind Ruth Wheeler scrapbooks. The Board decided to move forward with efforts to add to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science Archive's collection of DFO records. Since the Board met in October one meeting with Museum personnel has occurred to discuss sharing of documents and digitization.
- ☐ Various reports were presented including the membership report. As of October we have 355 members; a survey of membership needs is in the works. (See the survey in this issue.)
- ☐ The Board is looking at the possible use of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's eBird database as another digital means of storing and sharing DFO trip records.
- ☐ Chris Blakeslee looked into various ways for communicating DFO meeting cancellations. The Board has established procedures related to cancellation of any future meetings; see the second to last page of the Lark Bunting for information about meeting and field trip changes or cancellations.
- ☐ Chuck Thornton-Kolbe is working to develop a support system for DFO's field trip schedulers Patty Echelmeyer, Meredith Anderson, and Jackie King. They do amazing work for DFO and Chuck wants to find additional volunteer help to try and take a bit of the load off of each of them.
- ☐ The Board moved to endorse a Bobwhite habitat initiative and continues to support SafeSkies Colorado.

Lastly, Chuck presented concerns about DFO's present non-profit and tax status. DFO is in compliance with the State of Colorado, but has not filed with the IRS since the early 1990's. Chuck has consulted a CPA (cost \$175) concerning these issues. The Board discussed these concerns at length. The Board requested that Ira Sanders consult with a tax attorney at a cost of up to \$500; this was later deemed not necessary.

(Since the Board meeting Chuck has consulted with the IRS and done research through the Colorado Association of Non-profits website. He has also met with Bob Shade, treasurer, and they have developed a plan to bring us back into compliance. See "DFO Tax Status as Charity" in the January issue of the Lark Bunting.) Submitted by Chris A. Blakeslee

December Field Trip Summaries

Dec 5, Saturday *Lower Deer Creek (LOW)*

Leader(s): Lynn Willcockson. **Observers:** David Alcock, Will Burt, Tim Smart, Kiki Widjaja. **Time:** 0800-1145. **Distance:** 10 miles by car, 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Deciduous and lowland riparian, elevation 5400'. **Weather:** Clear, 18-31°F, west wind, 0-10mph. **Totals:** 24 species, 587 individuals.

Dec 6, Sunday *Barr Lake State Park (BAR)*

Leader(s): Tim Smart and Meredith Anderson. **Time:** 0830-1430. **Distance:** 25 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lake, woods and fields. **Weather:** Snowy, cold, overcast, 4-19°F, east-northeast wind, 3-20mph. **Totals:** 44 species, 33,498 individuals.

Dec 12, Saturday *Fort Collins Lakes (FOR)*

Leader(s): Paul Slingsby. **Observers:** Jim Duggan, Meredith Anderson. **Time:** 0800-1700. **Distance:** 200 miles by car, 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Lakes, riparian, urban forest. **Weather:** Partly cloudy, 40°F, wind 5-10mph. **Totals:** 43 species, 1602 individuals.

Dec 13, Sunday *Pawnee National Grasslands, Weld County (PAW)*

Leader(s): Norm Erthal. **Observers:** 5. **Time:** 0800-1600. **Distance:** 270 miles by car. **Weather:** 13-48°F. **Totals:** 40 species, 3740 individuals.

Dec 20, Saturday *Parker Regional Park (PAR)*

Leader(s): Mary Cay Burger. **Observers:** Wayne Haggarty, Derek Hankins, Mary Keithler. **Time:** 0830-1130. **Distance:** 2½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Elevation 5850'. **Weather:** Unseasonably warm, clear skies, 27-50°F, south wind, 5-7mph. **Totals:** 12 species, 408 individuals.

Dec 26, Saturday *Allenspark, Foothills and the Fawnbrook Inn (ALL)*

Trip report not available at time of printing.

Tuesday Birders

Dec 1 *Prospect Park, Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (PRO)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Else Van Erp. **Observers:** 46 (two groups). **Time:** 0900-1300. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lowland riparian, cottonwood, ponds, willow, cattails, lakes, urban park, elevation 5386'. **Weather:** Partly sunny, 41-56°F, variable wind, 0-5mph. **Totals:** 42 species, 1381 individuals.

Dec 8 *Bear Creek Lake Park (BEA)*

Trip cancelled due to snowy weather.

The detailed summaries listing species per location can be downloaded from www.dfobirders.org

Denver Field Ornithologists Member Survey

Introduction to Survey:

DFO Mission: The DFO mission is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats.

Members are encouraged (through meeting presentations and field trips) to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Why Survey DFO Members? The DFO Board truly wants to work with our members to improve the services we provide. However, the DFO is a volunteer organization, so it does take time to accomplish some of our improvement goals. Your comments and suggestions for improvement are very much appreciated. Keep your expectations high, but also we do appreciate your patience. This survey should only take 2 to 5 minutes of your time.

More Volunteers Make Improvements Happen Faster: DFO volunteers provide very valuable services to our members. We provide over 100 field trips each year, and private firms would easily charge \$25 to \$100 to participate in each of these trips. These field trip services are easily worth \$5,000 per year if a member attended every field trip. Our presentations at DFO meeting are well attended and are valued by those who attend. Many members could not imagine a day without an update to the Rare Bird Alert (volunteer time by Joyce, Allison and Dick should be valued at well over \$5,000 per year). In addition, our members get a newsletter which is also developed by volunteer effort.

We sincerely hope to do more and to improve the services we do offer. Please consider supporting our efforts by contributing additional resources to our endowment or to any of our funds supporting any of these specific efforts (such as the Rare Bird Alert). Most of all, we need more volunteer help. We hope to clarify our needs for volunteers in the months ahead. Please consider volunteering your time.

Return Instructions for Survey:

Once completed, please mail survey to:

Charles Thornton-Kolbe
DFO President
2284 South Josephine St.
Denver, CO 80210

Denver Field Ornithologists Member Survey, continued

Section A: Weekly Bird-Watching Field Trips

Please consider and think about our weekly field trips, as you answer the following 7 questions (A1 to A7).

A1. Based upon your experiences with our weekly field trips, what do we do well?

A2. What could we do better (in terms of field trips)?

A3. What would you like to see done in next three years to improve field trips?

A4. How important do you feel it is for DFO to report field trip data? *Please answer based upon the choices below of 1 to 5.*

1 = Not important. Not a good use of time.

2 = A little important.

3 = Some what important.

4 = Important.

5 = Very important.

A5. Is it worth adding the DFO data from current trips to a database (like E-bird at Cornell University) so that the information can be used to support scientific study? *Please circle one answer.*

Yes or No or Not Sure

A6. Is it worth adding past DFO trip data to a database (like E-bird at Cornell) so that the information can be used to support scientific study? *Please circle one answer.*

Yes or No or Not Sure

A7. If you have any other comments about data collection from DFO field trips, *please let us know.*

Denver Field Ornithologists Member Survey, continued

Section B: Monthly Meetings and Presentations, Questions B1 to B3

B1. What do we do well with the monthly meetings and presentations?

B2. What could we do better to the monthly meetings and presentations?

B3. What would you like to see done in next three years to the monthly meetings and presentations?

Section C: Rare Bird Alert, Questions C1 to C6

C1. How do you most often access information from the Rare Bird Alert? *Please circle one answer.*

- *through COBirds*
- *through other on-line resources*
- *through the telephone*

C2. How often do you access the Rare Bird Alert by telephone? *Please circle the frequency which best matches your use of the Rare Bird Alert (only one answer, please).*

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <i>a. almost daily or daily</i> | <i>b. weekly and/or up to 3 times per month</i> |
| <i>c. about one time per month</i> | <i>d. 4 times to 1 time per year</i> |
| <i>e. never</i> | |

C3. When traveling, do you access the Rare Bird Alert in other states? *Please circle all that apply.*
Yes or No or Not Sure

C4. When traveling, how do you access the Rare Bird Alert in other states? *Please circle one.*
Telephone Only, Internet Only, Both Methods, Does Not Apply

C5. Would you like the Rare Bird Alert posted on the DFO website at least once per week? *Please circle one answer.*

Yes or No or Not Sure

Denver Field Ornithologists Member Survey, continued

C6. Would you find a post to the DFO website more helpful than other access methods currently available? Circle all that apply.

This would be more helpful than COBirds.

This would be more helpful than calling into RBA phone line.

I would use this only a few times per year.

I would never use this.

Section D: Bird Preservation and Conservation

D1. Should the DFO do more for bird conservation and preservation? Please rank your answers based upon the following 5 point scale.

1 = DFO should not do anything to support bird conservation.

2 = DFO should be doing less to support bird conservation.

3 = DFO is doing enough about bird conservation.

4 = DFO should be doing a little more to support bird conservation.

5 = DFO should be doing a lot more about bird conservation.

D2. What else should DFO do about bird conservation? Please provide additional recommendations if you would like.

D3. What other birding and bird conservation organizations do you belong to? Please circle all that apply.

Colorado Field Ornithologists,

American Birding Association,

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory,

Nature Conservancy,

National Audubon/Colorado Audubon,

The Audubon Society of Greater Denver,

The American Bird Conservancy,

Birdlife International

Other conservation or birding organizations that you belong to: _____

Section E: Better Meeting Needs of Birding Community

E1. What else do you think the DFO should do in next three years to better meet the needs of the birding community?

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

PRESIDENT

Charles Thornton-Kolbe, 2284 S Josephine Street, Denver CO 80210, 303.777.7588
Charles@pibird.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Lynn Willcockson, 2698 S Niagara, Denver CO 80224 303.757.7000
lynnliz2698@aol.com

TREASURER

Bob Shade, 9353 W Nevada Place, Lakewood CO 80226-3029, 303.975.2476
WRSHADE3@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Sue Schulman, 6024 E Briarwood Drive, Centennial CO 80112-1030, 303.773.3540
suenschulman@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

Rick and Connie Steinkamp (12)
ricconcal@comcast.net
John Drummond (12)
jxdummo@aol.com
Carol Blackard (11)
carol-blackard@comcast.net
Ira Sanders (11) greatauk@msn.com
Niña Routh (10) nrouth@copper.net
Chris Blakeslee (10) chrisabla@aol.com

Membership Chair and Past President

Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742 303.771.3431
mcburger3@juno.com

HISTORIAN

Warren Finch, 303.233.3372

FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS

Patty Echelmeyer, 303.233.4947,
Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct
Jackie King, 303.287.1644,
Feb, May, Aug, Nov
Meredith Anderson, 303.280.8576
Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec

Lark Bunting Editor/Webmaster

Veronica Holt, 303.646.3829
veronicaholt@Q.com

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Dick Kolbe, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, trip reports from the previous month, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome and openly solicited. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80232, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net.

Additional Reports

Poileke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 1221 E Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128 dacbcCook@comcast.net.

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcCook@comcast.net.

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson meander303@mac.com

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303-771-1421, email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is back-up contact person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email d_d_hill@comcast.net.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Denver Field Ornithologists 2010 Membership Application

Please indicate: ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st.

- ☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00
☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00

For those who wish to have the field trip reports mailed to them, rather than downloading from the DFO web site, please add an additional \$10 to your regular membership.

☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

☐ Contribution to the Colorado Rare Bird Alert \$_____

With the Rock Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sightings of rare or unusual birds, located on the Colorado Field Ornithologists website.

☐ Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund \$_____

DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Electronic Lark Bunting Email address: _____

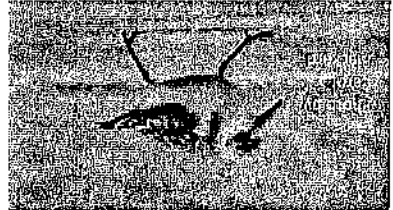
Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
 Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742

Upcoming DFO Feature Presentations

To the Sea and Shore

With Bill Schmoker

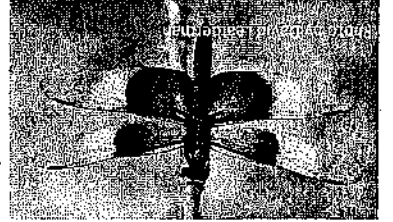
Monday, January 25, 2010, 7.30pm



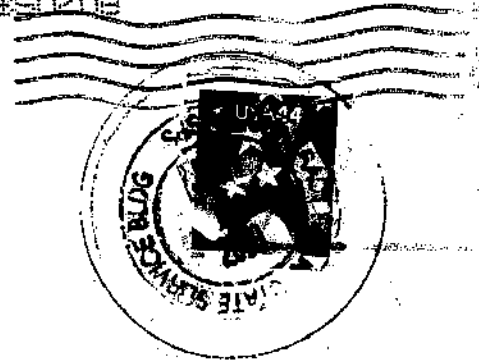
Dragonflies and Damselflies of Colorado

With David Leatherman

Monday, February 22, 2010



**Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742**



Kathie Gully
Alfred M Bailey Library & Archives
Denver Museum Nature & Science
2001 Colorado Blvd.,
Denver CO 80205-5798

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE FEBRUARY 2010

SPECIES DATE LOCATION	DFO FIELD TRIPS								TUESDAY BIRDERS				TOTAL
	6	7	13	14	20	21	27	28	2	9	16	23	
	LOW	EAS	VAL	GAT	CHA	ROX	PLA	WHE	CHA	REY	REY	WHE	
Pied-billed Grebe							8		1		1		10
Great Blue Heron			1		1						1	2	5
Black-crowned Night-Heron											1		1
Canada Goose	600	805	50		350		150	34	285		250	31	2455
Wood Duck							2				2		4
Gadwall		4			10		22	48			32	40	156
Eurasian Wigeon													0
American Wigeon	2		4		3		1	44			5	36	95
Mallard	6	45	50		4		15	68	13		112	91	424
Northern Shoveler		2			1		80	160			8	112	363
Green-winged Teal		4	2		1		10	9			16	24	66
Redhead					4		20				1		25
Ring-necked Duck											13		13
Lesser Scaup							4	4			2	2	12
Long-tailed Duck							2						2
Bufflehead					7		17	2	2		30	6	64
Common Goldeneye			4		15		35	22	2		29	22	129
Barrow's Goldeneye							2						2
Hooded Merganser			3		1		1	4			18		27
Common Merganser	25						6	4					35
Red-breasted Merganser							5						5
Bald Eagle	4	3					1					1	9
Northern Harrier	1	7											8
Sharp-shinned Hawk				1									1
Cooper's Hawk			1				1				1	1	4
Red-shouldered Hawk		1											1
Red-tailed Hawk	18	30	2	3	2		3	1	5		2	2	68
western races							(1)	1					(2)
"Harran's" race							2						(2)
Ferruginous Hawk	1	6											7
Rough-legged Hawk		13					1						14
Golden Eagle		1											1
American Kestrel	7	36	1		2		2		1		2		51
Prairie Falcon		1		1									2
Ring-necked Pheasant		2	1										3
Wild Turkey		35											35
Virginia Rail		2	1										3
American Coot							31	8			1	3	43
Killdeer								1	1			4	6
Long-billed Dowitcher													0
Wilson's Snipe									1			2	3
Red-necked Phalarope													0
Ring-billed Gull	7	24	4				24	22	11		8	28	128
California Gull							11						11
Hairy Gull													0
Rock Pigeon	70	64	3	7			32	7			16	11	212
Eurasian Collared-dove	5	19					2	1					27
Mourning Dove		16											16
Great Horned Owl		1							1				2
Long-eared Owl		5											5
Short-eared Owl		5											5
Rufous Hummingbird													0
Belted Kingfisher		1	1		1		1		2		4	6	15
Downy Woodpecker		1	1	3				4	3		1		13
Hairy Woodpecker													0
Northern Flicker		8	5	4			4	15	4		6	4	50
"Red-shafted" race		(6)						(15)					(23)
Buff-breasted Flycatcher													0
Northern Shrike		1							2				3
Steller's Jay				3									3
Blue Jay		6		3				1					10
Western Scrub-Jay				3									3
Black-billed Magpie	1	1	1	4	6		8	4	4		6	3	40

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE FEBRUARY 2010

SPECIES	DFO FIELD TRIPS								TUESDAY BIRDERS				TOTAL
	6	7	13	14	20	21	27	28	2	9	16	23	
LOCATION	LON	EAS	VAL	GAT	CHA	ROX	PLA	WHE	CHA	REY	REY	WHE	
American Crow			5	3	2		12	28			2	3	55
Common Raven				1									1
Horned Lark		500		1									501
Black-capped Chickadee			4	3	1			12	2		6	6	34
Mountain Chickadee				7									7
Red-breasted Nuthatch				1									1
White-breasted Nuthatch				2				2					4
Brown Creeper								1			2		3
Marsh Wren		2											2
American Dipper								2				3	5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet												1	1
Townsend's Solitaire				3									3
American Robin	3	192	2	3	1		37	38	1		1	3	281
European Starling	450	758	3				62	55	9		8	10	1355
Yellow-rumped Warbler		8											6
"Myrtle" race		1											(1)
"Audubon's" race		5											(5)
Spotted Towhee				14									14
American Tree Sparrow			3	1							1		5
Fox Sparrow													0
Song Sparrow			2					7	1		2	5	17
White-crowned Sparrow	3											4	7
Dark-eyed Junco		12		42	15			3					72
"State-colored" race		(2)			1								(3)
"Oregon" race		(6)			1								(7)
"Pink-sided" race		(4)			13								(17)
Red-winged Blackbird	10	1109	20				110	16			22	4	1291
Western Meadowlark	1	5					4						10
Rusty Blackbird												1	1
Brewer's Blackbird	4	2											6
Great-tailed Grackle		230											230
House Finch		30	6	8				7			3		54
Common Redpoll				2									2
Pine Siskin				51									51
American Goldfinch			9	6				1					16
House Sparrow		2						4			1		7
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	1118	3897	188	180	429	0	724	851	381	0	613	475	8,787
TOTAL SPECIES	18	42	27	28	19	0	34	35	20	0	33	34	85
OBSERVATION LEGEND:													
a=adult, i=immature, j=juvenile, y=young, n=nesting, m=male, f=female, h=heard only, c=calling, s=singing, boldface=rare/unusual, + =also/in addition to, x=individual data incomplete/not enumerated													

Longmont (LON)

Eastern Plains Region (EAS)

Valley Country Club, Arapahoe County (VAL)

Gateway Mesa and Kingery Feeders (GAT)

Chatfield State Park (CHA)

Platte River and 88th

Wheat Ridge Greenbelt

Chatfield State Park (CHA)

Reynolds Landing and Hudson Gardens (REY)

Wheat Ridge Greenbelt Trail West (WHE)



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

MARCH 2010

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 45, Number 3

Birding 2.0 -- Using Technology to Become a Better Birder...

With Ted Floyd, Bill Schmoker, and Nathan Pieplow
Monday, March 22, 2010

I'm sure almost every DFO birder has experimented with technological aids of one type or another; from websites to GPS to iPods singing out bird calls in the field. Ted, Bill, and Nathan will amaze you with their INTERACTIVE presentation. They will showcase a wide variety of the latest technological resources available in the market today for the tech-savvy birder.

They will demonstrate such things as:

- Birding software
- Bird and birding websites
- Handheld electronic gadgets
- Innovative electronic bird finding guides such as the Colorado County Birding website
- Bird identification and vocalization sites and aids: Macaulay, Xeno-Canto, Raven Lite
- eBird, COBIRDS
- Citizen science
- Navigation (GoogleMaps) and weather info.
- and more...

*Word has it that
Patty Echelmeyer
enthusiastically endorses
this amazing DFO
presentation!*

Continued on page 3



March Field Trips

Thursday, March 4 Cañon City

Leader: Charles Thornton-Kolbe, (303)377-7588, <mailto:charles@pibird.com>. Meet Leader at 0600 at the Park 'n Ride off of I-25 at Yale Ave. (right turn at Yale, then an immediate right turn into the parking lot) - carpools will be formed here. We'll check on the way for Scrub Jay, bluebirds and raptors, then search the Riverwalk and Tunnel Drive for riparian birds, owls and local rarities. Full-day trip; bring water, lunch and snacks, a two-way radio if you have one, and dress in layers for changing weather conditions.

Saturday, March 6 Loveland Area

Leader: Connie Kogler, <mailto:zblueheron@gmail.com>. Meet Leader at 0800 at the Starbucks at 1317 Eagle Drive in Loveland. We'll carpool from there and check out Connie's favorite spots to bird in and around Loveland. Bring a sack lunch and water, as we'll probably have lunch at Connie's house while keeping an eye on those famous feeders! Please email Connie to sign up. Trip should wrap up by 2 or 3 p.m.

Sunday, March 7 Walden Ponds with the Boulder Bird Club

Join Leader Pat Heller for a Sunday morning walk through one of Boulder's most popular and productive birding spots. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Cottonwood Marsh parking lot: take Arapahoe Road in Boulder north to 75th Street, turn left on 75th and watch for signs to Walden Ponds on the left. We'll walk the ponds and riparian areas in search

March Field Trips, continued

of waterfowl, early shorebirds, sparrows, chickadees, juncos and bluebirds, and perhaps walk the creek as well. Half-day trip; bring water and snacks, and dress for the weather.

Saturday, March 13 Golden Gate State Park

Leader: Mike Serruto, (303)377-9870. Meet Leader at 0800 at the Ward Road Park 'n Ride off of I-70 for carpooling up to the Park. An option is to go to Mt. Galbraith Park on Golden Gate Canyon Road about a mile up from Highway 93, where we'll stop at about 8:30. We'll check around the Visitors' Center for Dipper, Townsend's Solitaire, and woodpeckers, then drive along Ralston Road stopping at likely birdy spots. After lunch we'll walk Mountain Base Road for evidence of nesting raptors, then wend our way homeward through White Ranch Park for crossbills and bluebirds. Be prepared for a 3/4 day trip with moderate hiking involving some elevation changes. Bring lunch, water, a two-way radio if you have one, and dress for the changeable foothills weather (wind likely). Please notify Leader if you plan to attend. State Parks Pass or fee may be required.

Sunday, March 14 Barr Lake State Park

Leader: Tim Smart, <mailto:smrr@juno.com>. Welcome the return of Daylight Savings Time at "The Barr"! Meet Leader at 0830 at the Visitors' Center; we'll walk the lake for waterfowl, riparian species and eagles, then drive along the county roads nearby for raptors, shrike, and rarities such as Rusty blackbird and Greater White-fronted Goose. Bring lunch, water, a scope and two-way radio if you have them; trip will wrap up by mid-afternoon. If you haven't already procured a Parks Pass for 2010, here is a good time and place to do it!

Saturday, March 20 Birding by Snowshoe: Boulder's High Country

Leader: Bill Schmoker, <mailto:bill.schmoker@gmail.com>. Meet Leader at the Brainard Lake Trailhead above Ward (<http://tinyurl.com/Brainard>) at 0800. Be prepared to snowshoe up the fairly steep approach to Lefthand Reservoir and the Krummholz above (approx. 2 miles, gaining nearly 1000 feet) looking for montane birds along the way. Once above treeline we will search for White-tailed Ptarmigan in their winter plumage. Snowshoes required, poles highly suggested. For snowshoe rental check out local retailers such as REI (in Boulder, www.rei.com/stores/44). Dress warmly in layers for the high-altitude winter environment; warm boots, gloves, hat, a suitable daypack, lunch and water required. RSVP to Bill by email (above) so you can be contacted if weather or snow conditions necessitate changes in the plan.

Sunday, March 21 Pueblo Area

Leader: Paul Slingsby, (303)422-3728 <mailto:paslingsby@comcast.net>. Meet Leader at 0600 at Yosemite St. at C-470: from I-25 exit County Line Rd., go west to Yosemite. Follow Yosemite south as it curves around to the last right-hand turn before C-470. Park in the SE corner of the lot there. Full-day trip with easy hiking; bring lunch, water, and a scope and two-way radio if you have them. Please be sure to register with Leader beforehand.

Saturday, March 27 Bear Creek Lake Park

Leader: Mike Henwood, (303)716-8551. Meet at 0800 at the entrance to the Park (SE corner of C-470 at Morrison Rd.). We should see some early migrants such as Tree Swallow and Bluebirds (all 3 species were seen on this trip in 2009) plus nesting owls, hawks and a good variety of waterfowl. This is a half-day trip with easy hiking on some uneven trails. Bring water, snacks and dress for the unpredictable spring foothills weather.

Sunday, March 28 Fountain Creek Regional Park

Leader: Sue Schulman, (303) 773-3540. Meet Leader at 0800 at the Park Visitors' Center: from I-25 take exit 132 east to Hwy. 85 and follow it around to the entrance at Cattail Marsh. We'll check the creek and feeders, then walk the trails looking for early migrants and waterfowl. After lunch we'll wend our way northward to Big Johnson Reservoir for gulls, grebes and more waterfowl. Full day trip, well-suited to beginning birders. Bring lunch, water and a scope and radio if you have them. Please call Sue to register and to arrange carpools.

Using Technology to Become a Better Birder

Ted Floyd is the editor of *Birding*, the flagship publication of the American Birding Association. He is the author of numerous articles and two recent books, including *The Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (HarperCollins). Ted is a frequent speaker at bird festivals and other birding events, and he is an instructor with the ABA's Institute for Field Ornithology. His last two appearances before the DFO audience were "The Most Excellent Birds in the World" (Oct. 2007), and "Birding at Night: The Ultimate Frontier" (March 2009) about the mid to late summer molt migration of Colorado chipping sparrows.

Bill Schmoker's greatest professional accomplishment is being a dedicated middle school science teacher in Longmont where he lives with this wife and son. He is the past president of Colorado Field Ornithologists and in his spare time he is an accomplished nature photographer whose work has appeared in magazines, field guides, newspapers, interpretive signage, advertisements, corporate logos, websites, and other venues. He is also a busy blogger, columnist, instructor, speaker, and tour leader for ABA and other organizations, and he is a Nikon Birding ProStaffer. Visit Bill at <http://schmoker.org> or <http://brdpics.blogspot.com>.

Nathan Pieplow teaches writing at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and is the distinguished editor of CFO's quarterly journal *Colorado Birds*. Nathan has been a key figure in the development and implementation of the online Colorado County Birding website, an innovative electronic birdfinding guide, and of the Colorado Birding Trail, with its unique emphasis on creating partnerships between private ranchers and the state's birding community. Nathan is a contributing author to *Birding* and an instructor with the ABA's Institute for Field Ornithology. He is also an active natural-sounds recordist and he blogs at Earbirding.com.

All persons in attendance on March 22nd will receive a FREE copy of *Let's Go Birding!* a new beginner's guide by Ted Floyd and Bill Schmoker, published by the American Birding Association. Thanks to the ABA for this special offer. Whether you love your computer, Blackberry, and iPod or hate them, join us for an entertaining and informative presentation by three of Colorado's top birders and leaders in the use of technology in the pursuit of our feathered friends.

Monday, February 22, 2010

February finds **David Allen Leatherman** making a return visit to DFO's podium from his northern Front Range haunts of Ft. Collins and its environs. Warning: David states, "No one prone to Nature addictions should attend, because these creatures (the "odes") can hook you." Before you say, "Where are the birds?" remember David's last amazing presentation to DFO, in March of 2008, titled "Learning More About Birding by Learning More About What Birds Eat." On that evening he convincingly illustrated for us that a broader understanding of the natural world and its interrelationships will enable us to find more birds!

While in the field birding we have all observed dragonflies and damselflies, the "odes" (Insect Order Odonata), patrolling the edges of streams and ponds and "hawking" for insects over meadows or open fields. Dragonflies and damselflies begin their lives in the water and emerge to become skillful terrestrial predators; some consider them to be the insect equivalents of mountain lions and bobcats respectively. These insects have amazing adaptations including compound eyes which contain as many as 30,000 lenses, giving these creatures a complete 360 degree view of the world around them. And dragonflies "invented" jet propulsion as an escape maneuver over 300 million years ago. In "The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Colorado" David will try to tie in as much bird information as possible, but essentially the presentation will be about this group of "watchable" insects. He will discuss the names, lore, and lives of the Order Odonata, and also survey the major groups present in Colorado. Currently the unofficial state roster stands at 105-108 species. The talk will be accompanied by David's photographs.

April 26, 2010; Nathan Pieplow -- Spring Migrant Refresher Course on Calls and Songs (No meetings May through July)

The Denver Field Ornithologists monthly meetings are held in Ricketson Auditorium at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science in City Park. These meetings are free and open to the public and occur on the 4th Monday of each month August through April (except December). Park on the north side of the museum and walk around and enter through the museum's west door. Plan to arrive by 7:15pm; DOORS OPEN BY 7:00 AND ARE LOCKED AT 7:30pm. If late, you can enter through the security/volunteer door, but this creates problems for our hosts.

January Additional Reports

Species	Date	# Seen	Location	County	Observers
Duck, Long-tailed	01/09/10	1f, 1m - with complete tail	Pueblo Reservoir	Pueblo	Paul Differding, Joey Kellner, Randy Lentz, Glenn Walbek
Goldeneye, Barrow's	01/09/10	2 males	Pueblo Reservoir	Pueblo	Paul Differding, Joey Kellner, Randy Lentz, Glenn Walbek
Red-breasted Merganser	01/25/10	1	Confluence Park	Denver	Paul Hicks
Bald Eagle	01/21/10	1	Pinery Lake	Douglas	Pat Skinner
N. Goshawk	01/05/10	1	Castle Rock	Douglas	Kirk Hufstater
Gull, mew	01/09/10	1 adult	Pueblo Reservoir	Pueblo	Paul Differding, Joey Kellner, Randy Lentz, Glenn Walbek
Gull, lesser black-backed	01/09/10	1 adult	Pueblo Reservoir	Pueblo	Paul Differding, Joey Kellner, Randy Lentz, Glenn Walbek
Gull, great black-backed	01/09/10	1 adult	Pueblo Reservoir	Pueblo	Paul Differding, Joey Kellner, Randy Lentz, Glenn Walbek
Barn Owl	12/09/09	1-found dead	Thornton	Adams	Mr. Gamuda
Owl, snowy	01/15-23/10	1 adult male	East of the town of Falcon	El Paso	Amy Kellner, Joey Kellner, Steve Stachowiak
Woodpecker, red-headed	01/03/10	imm!!	Bonny Reservoir	Yuma	Paul Differding, Joey Kellner, Norm Erthal
Sapsucker, yellow-bellied	01/09/10	1	Canon City	Fremont	Paul Differding, Joey Kellner, Randy Lentz, Glenn Walbek
Woodpecker, American three-toed	01/16/10	1m, 1f	Hwy 67 - west of Sedalia	Douglas	Amy Kellner, Joey Kellner
Phoebe, black	01/09/10	1	Pueblo Reservoir	Pueblo	Paul Differding, Joey Kellner, Randy Lentz, Glenn Walbek
Shrike, loggerhead	01/03/10	1	Hwy 59	Kit Carson	Paul Differding, Joey Kellner, Norm Erthal
Bushlit	01/25/10	flock	Aquarium, Confluence Park	Denver	Paul Hicks
Mountain Bluebird	01/12/10	4	CR 106 & Elbert Road	Elbert	Karen Metz
American Robin	01/29/10	85	Castle Rock	Douglas	Kirk Hufstater
Yellow-rumped Warbler	01/19/10	5-10	South Platte, 741 to Sand Cr.	Denver	Dick Schottler
Sparrow, golden-crowned	01/3-23/10	1 imm	Red Rocks Park	Jefferson	Warren Finch, Joey Kellner, Jeff & Kathy Mihm-Dunning, Matt Newport, Steve Stachowiak
Evening Grosbeak	12/06/09	1	Castle Rock	Douglas	Kirk Hufstater
Evening Grosbeak	01/29/10	42-flock increasing	Castle Rock	Douglas	Kirk Hufstater

Please send your reports to Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 1221 E Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

The DFO Board is looking for some help for our trip scheduling leaders.

If you would be willing to help with making phone calls please get in touch with Patty Echelmeyer 303.233.4947, Jackie King 303.287.1644, and Meredith Anderson 303.280.8576

Thank you!

On March 15, 2010 at the Denver Flagship REI, Audubon is sponsoring a lecture by Paul Bannick who has written a book about Owls and Woodpeckers and their interrelationships. The evening is free, donations always accepted.

More, and better information about the event is at <http://www.denveraudubon.org/documents/Warbler/2010JanFebWarbler.pdf>

56th Annual Denver Christmas Bird Count

Day, Date, and Time: Saturday, December 19, 2009, 6:30 am to 5:00 pm (not including owling)

Compiler: Dick Schottler

Feeder Coordinators: Patty Echelmeyer and Tina Jones

Weather: Mostly clear, **Temperature:** 0 to 53 deg. F, **Wind:** variable, 0 to 30 mph, **Snow Cover:** 0 to 24"

Still Water: Mostly frozen, **Moving Water:** Partly open, **Observers:** 120 (95 in 30 parties, 25 watchers at 23 feeders) **Total Party Hours:** 194.4 (132.7 on foot, 61.7 by car), **Total Party Miles:** 643.4 (93.2 on foot, 550.2 by car)

Owling hours: 3.75 **Owling miles:** 19.5 **Hours Spent Watching Feeders:** 82

Count Totals: 97 species; 28,859 individuals

Participants by Area (Area Leader's names in bold):

- Area 1 Red Rocks Park (RRP): **Bob Brown**
- Area 2 Lower Bear Creek (LBC): Rick Creswell, Peggy Gonder, **Mike Henwood**, Deb Mallory, Daniel McAdams, Nathan McAdams, Christopher Neuman, Rob Riker, Harriet Stratton,
- Area 2A Bear Creek Lake Park (BCP): Midge Ball, **Kathy Hawkins**
- Area 3 Bow Mar/Marston (BMM): (Area counted; no report received!)
- Area 4A Lower South Platte-east (LSP): Nathaniel Bechtel, Tim Brown, Mary Burger, **Ed Holub**, Sue Schulman
- Area 4B Lower South Platte-west (LSP): Jeff Dawson, Steve Kingswood, **Robert Shade**
- Area 5 Highline Ditch (HLD): **Nancy Crews**, Michele Danforth
- Area 6 Plum Creek (PCK): **Norm Erthal**
- Area 7A Middle South Platte (MSP): **Randy Lentz**
- Area 7B Middle South Platte (MSP): Jason Blevins, Dale Brinker, Margaret Brinker, Peter Gillette, Celia Greenman, Hugh Kingery, **Urling Kingery**, Deb Ostergard, Mike Serruto
- Area 8 Chatfield Reservoir (CHA): Paul Differding, **Joey Kellner**, Charles Lawrence, Connie Steinkamp, Rick Steinkamp, Kiki Widjaja
- Area 9 Upper South Platte (USP): Carol Barr, Kathryn Emmack, Betty Glass, **Jill Holden**, Mary Keithler, Meredith McBurney
- Area 10 Lower Deer Creek (LDC): Patty Echelmeyer, David Edwards, Jean Fredlund, Jim Fredlund, Glen Meyers, Kay Niyo, Liz Willcockson, **Lynn Willcockson**
- Area 11 Upper Deer Creek (UDC): Jim Duggan, Norm Lewis, Toni Rautus, Nina Routh, **Paul Slingsby**
- Area 12 Yegge Peak (YPK): Audrey Boag, **Ann Bonnell**, Michael Kiessig, Else Van Erp
- Area 13 Doublehead Mountain (DHM): **Amy Davis**, Tim Davis, Veronica Holt
- Area 14 North Turkey Creek (NTC): Ed Furlong, Larry Modesitt, **Dick Schottler**
- Area 15 Indian Hills (IHL): Susan Harper, Lois Levinson, Kathanne Lynch, Dick Prickett, Marilyn Rhodes, Karen Von Saltza, **Sherman Wing**
- Area 16 Upper Bear Creek (UBC): **Tom Parchman**, Robert Santangelo, Barbara Shissler, Cindy Valentine
- Area 17 Ken Caryl Ranch (KCR): **Tom Bush**, Mark Chavez, Jean Eddins, Lee Farrell, Linda Farrell, R. D. Gunn
- Area 18 Garrison Gate (GGT): (Area not counted)
- Area 19 Morrison/Willow Brook (MWB): Joan Coxe, **Jackie King**, David O'Reilly, David Weimer
- Area 20 Willow Creek (WCK): **Doris Cruze**, Irene Godden, Paul Thayer, Phoebe Thayer, Dennis Wojcicki
- Area 21 Mt. Lindo/Willow Springs (MLW): **Wayne Wathen**

Feeder Watchers: Jane Axtell, Doni Berry, John Bonnell, Margo Breen, Nan Brehmer, Debby Carstensen, Carol Chapman, Betty Chrisman, Carol Duecker, Marcia Ferguson, Marjory Friedman, Bill & Jewell Henrichs, Tina Jones, Bill Karsell, Mike Kinsey, Judy Lane, Rich Ludvigsen, Dick Masteller, Barbara McGovern, Millie Sanger, Jacque Schneider, Janet Shin, Mary Anne Smith, Candy Vallado.

2009 Denver Christmas Bird Count Highlights

Dick Schottler, Compiler

The 2009 Denver Christmas Bird Count (CBC) took place on December 19, the 56th consecutive year that the Denver Field Ornithologists has conducted a Christmas Count within the same 15-mile diameter Count circle established in 1954 and centered just north of the old Ken Caryl Ranch entrance. The weather on Count Day was good with mostly clear skies, and seasonal temperatures. Winds were generally calm to light in the morning becoming stronger in the afternoon. Even with no report received from one area that was counted and one area that was not counted, 28,859 individual birds (34,113 in 2008) of 97 species (92 in 2008) were recorded by 95 field observers and 25 feeder watchers. These are impressive numbers since almost all bodies of standing water including Chatfield Reservoir and Bear Creek Lake were almost completely frozen over following a period of extremely cold weather prior to the Count.

No new species were added to the cumulative Denver CBC list in 2009 so the total species seen since 1954 remains at 196. However several species rare to the Count were seen including a Peregrine Falcon seen in both Areas 7B and 8 and assumed to be the same bird (3rd record; last in 2000), a Say's Phoebe seen in Area 10 (4th record; all since 2003), a Chipping Sparrow seen in Area 1 (2nd record; 1st in 1997), a Field Sparrow seen in Area 7B (2nd record; 1st in 1991), a Golden-crowned Sparrow also seen in Area 1 (7th record; last in 1996), and 4 Brown-headed Cowbirds seen in Area 19 (2nd record; 1st in 1983).

Record-high individual numbers were established for four species: Black-crowned Night-Heron 12 (previous high 6 in 2008), Eurasian Collared-Dove 32 (previous high 31 in 2008), Pygmy Nuthatch 513 (previous high 472 in 2006), and Brown-headed Cowbird 4 (previous high 1 in 1983). Another species seen in higher-than-usual numbers this year was Downy Woodpecker 100 (second highest in 56 years). Several species were seen in lower-than-expected numbers this year, probably due at least in part to the lack of open water on lakes and ponds. These included Wood Duck 5 (fewest since 1979), Green-winged Teal 39 (lowest since 1973), Great Blue Heron 11 (lowest since 1973), Killdeer 6 (fewest since 1979), Herring Gull 3 (fewest since 1968), Tree Sparrow 35 (record low), and Song Sparrow 11 (2nd lowest since 1969).

The ten most numerous species observed on the Count were:

Canada Goose (11,977)	Dark-eyed Junco (1,233)
Crow (2,247)	House Finch (1,031)
Mallard (1,578)	Rock Pigeon (789)
Starling (1,487)	Black-billed Magpie (568)
Red-winged Blackbird (1,463)	Pygmy Nuthatch (513)

Together, these 10 species accounted for over 79 percent of the birds tallied, with Canada Geese alone representing 41.5 percent of the total.

As compiler of the Denver Christmas Bird Count, I want to thank all of the field observers and feeder watchers for participating and making the 56th Denver Count a success! It was particularly satisfying to see a significant increase in the number of field observers this year (95 versus 75 in 2008; in fact, this is the highest number of field observers in the 21 years I have been compiler). Special thanks go to the Area Leaders without whose efforts there would be no Count and for lining up all those observers, and to Patty Echelmeyer and Tina Jones for their efforts once again in coordinating the feeder watchers and compiling the feeder results. The only disappointment was the failure of one Area leader to submit a report for inclusion in the Count results.

Hellcat Environmentalist, Rosalie Edge

Plan Jeffco Annual Meeting March 6th

Come and learn how a currently little-known, hellcat environmentalist, Rosalie Edge, saved Nature from the Conservationists. On March 6 at 9:30 AM, Dyana Furrnansky will be talking about her new biography, "Rosalie Edge, Hawk of Mercy" at a Plan Jeffco sponsored event at the American Mountaineering Center at 710 10th St., in Golden.

Following her presentation, we'll hear from Jason Beason of the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) about local hawk migration surveys.

As a suffragette, Edge developed her strident advocacy skills and techniques working to secure women the right to vote. In the early 1900s, she used them effectively to influence conservation organizations and U.S. government agencies, including the predecessor agency to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to change course and eventually to protect and conserve wildlife and natural resources instead of only promoting their utilitarian values. The Audubon Society was one of her main targets because of its early reliance on ammunition and gun manufacturers for financial support and its early support of unlimited hunting of predators. She appreciated birds of prey at a time they were considered vermin and established the first preserve for raptors, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania. Years later, Rachel Carson relied on the data collected at Hawk Mountain for "Silent Spring", which publicized the devastating impacts of DDT. Edge was instrumental in preventing a dam in Yellowstone National Park and in the creation of Olympic National Park in Washington. Born in 1877 into a privileged New York City family, this woman who learned to love birds in Central Park, became the most effective environmental activist between John Muir and Rachel Carson, in an era when women were not to engage in public controversy or challenge the establishment. Interestingly, she obtained much of her information and financial support from some men who were afraid to become publicly involved.

The second part of our program features Jason Beason, Special Monitoring Projects Coordinator for RMBO, who will present an overview of the Hawkwatch conducted since 1990 on Dinosaur Ridge. Thousands of raptors have been counted on this flyway during spring migration, creating a long-term record that can provide insights on trends and conservation needs. Dinosaur Ridge is the only such monitoring site in Colorado, and as many as 17 species of raptors have been recorded there in a single year.

From: Bette Seeland, Plan Jeffco
303-238-3306, blseeland@yahoo.com

Learn about fascinating bird behavior online Register now for course beginning Feb. 17

Ithaca, NY—It's time to register for the next session of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's new online bird behavior course, **beginning February 17**. Each course session lasts five weeks.

The goal of "**Investigating Behavior: Courtship and Rivalry in Birds**" is to help people learn how to observe and interpret bird behavior and communication. A basic principle of bird behavior as it relates to survival and reproduction is explored each week using multimedia and interactive activities, guided by an instructor. A student taking the course right now says, "I am thoroughly enjoying this course. It really takes bird watching to another level and certainly sharpens observational skills. It is wonderfully organized and it's fun!"

To enroll visit www.ecornell.com/birds and watch the video further describing course content. Course size is limited. Future sessions are scheduled to begin **March 31** and **May 12**. The cost of the course is \$295 (\$255 for Cornell Lab members) with a \$30 dollar registration fee. To receive the Cornell Lab member discount, sign up toll-free at (866) 326-7635.

Alfred M. Bailey Library & Archives—Ornithology-related Collections

Online resources:

Archives & Image Archives collections searchable at <http://rmoa.unm.edu>. Contact information: Archives, 303.370.8353, kris.haglund@dmns.org; Image Archives, 303.370.8250, rene.payne@dmns.org.

Library collections searchable at <http://www.dmns.org/librarycatalog> (approximately 1900 catalog records of books, periodicals, archival collections, and dioramas related to ornithology). Contact information: 303.370.6362, Kathie.gully@dmns.org.

Archives/Image Archives Collections:

Records of the Denver Field Ornithologists and The Evergreen Naturalist Audubon Society.

Bird sighting records spanning the late 1800s to present, include those of:

Ed Andrews
Robert Andrews
William Chase Bradbury
Norman DeWitt Betts
Edwin Carter
Helen Downing
Alva Felger
L.J. Hersey

Hugh Kingery
Frederick C. Lincoln
Thompson Marsh
Jack Merchant
Jack Reddall
Robert Righter
Robert Rockwell
Alexander Wetmore

Field journals, photographs, and films of Alfred M. Bailey
Photographs of nature photographer Joseph Van Wormer
Photographs of Kenneth and Jean Bigwood (New Zealand) and Peter Ginn (Africa)
Artwork for the Birds of Colorado publications
African bird field sketches by Donald Leo Malick

Looking for information? Call Us...

Deciding what to do with your bird-related publications or documentation?

Remember Us...

Welcome New Members!

Ed Furlong, 7381 S Monica Lane, Evergreen, Co 80439, 303.674.5374
Gordon & Paula Hodgson, 8195 Hooker St, Westminster, CO 80031, 303.815.9164
Bob & Nancy Stocker, 2885 S Gilpin St, Denver, CO 80210-6314, 303.759.4056

Contributions

Rare Bird Alert: Anne Southcott, Judy Lane, Elissa & Jon McAlear, Robert Beck, Ed Furlong,
Bob & Nancy Stocker, Danny & Denise Smith
Educational Endowment Fund: Elissa & Jon McAlear, Robert Beck, Mary & Dave Driscoll, Minerva Canavan

So Sayeth the Speaker...

January 26, 2010, Sea and Shore, Sea-level Birding by Bill Schmoker

Bill, Bill, Bill (sigh), How do you do it? Transpose the soaring of birds into the soaring of our spirits?

Around the continental US shorelines from Florida to Washington and Maine to San Diego we flew at the monthly DFO meeting, watching Magnificent Frigatebirds hovering, Marbled Godwits probing deep, deeper, deepest into mud, Brown Boobies staking out a piece of pier, Royal Terns necking ever taller in the dance of love, Red Knots running like Sanderlings away from waves and Willets crashing straight through them, Buller's Shearwaters displaying their beautifully marked backs, Black Oystercatchers rooted soundly in pounding surf on tree-trunk legs, Fulmars both dark and light excreting salt from tube noses, and Cook's Petrels swooping and turning front to back, high to low all in the span of one second and five different shutter releases, then lined up in one image for our enjoyment and edification.

Not limited to birds, Bill gave us sea lions, orcas, fur seals in milk jug position, blue, humpback and other whales, each with a distinctive water spout, and toothy Risso's Dolphins with chewed-up backs. Mostly though, he enraptured us with unmatched images of birds, birds, birds and more birds, from shores we landlubbers may never get to visit, and loaded our experience with just enough informational tidbits to slake our thirst, but leave us wanting for more. What a teacher!

Careful, Boulder Valley 8th graders. Your science teacher has a show he might be able to take on the road.

Carol Blackard

WHAT: Sandhill Crane Photo Trip

WHEN: March 7-11

WHERE: The Zapata Ranch; San Luis Valley, CO



Photo by Carol Blackard

Join Michael Forsberg, Dave Showalter and John Rawinski this March for their first annual Photo Trip to the Zapata Ranch (Chico Basin Ranch's sister ranch) to document the historic Sandhill Crane Migration.

This trio will provide you the opportunity for behind-the-scenes access to public and private lands, and wildlife preserves and you will leave with a portfolio of new photos (focused primarily on cranes, but inclusive of other wildlife, landscape, bison and birds), first-hand knowledge of this remarkable bird, the surrounding landscape and the management, history and conservation work that is being done to preserve it.

There is an associated cost, and all attendees will stay in the Ranch's guest lodge and enjoy meals prepared by their gourmet chef. For more information: <http://www.zranch.org/userfiles/file/Crane%20Sell%20Sheet%20EMAIL.jpg> OR www.MichaelForsberg.com OR www.DaveShowalter.com OR www.Zranch.org

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

PRESIDENT

Charles Thornton-Kolbe, 2284 S Josephine Street, Denver CO 80210, 303.777.7588
Charles@pibird.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Lynn Willcockson, 2698 S Niagara, Denver CO 80224 303.757.7000
lynnliz2698@aol.com

TREASURER

Bob Shade, 9353 W Nevada Place, Lakewood CO 80226-3029, 303.975.2476
WRSHADE3@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Sue Schulman, 6024 E Briarwood Drive, Centennial CO 80112-1030, 303.773.3540
suerschulman@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

Rick and Connie Steinkamp (12)
ricconcal@comcast.net
John Drummond (12)
jxdrummo@aol.com
Carol Blackard (11)
carol-blackard@comcast.net
Ira Sanders (11) greatauk@msn.com
Niña Routh (10) mrouth@copper.net
Chris Blakeslee (10) chrisabla@aol.com

Membership Chair and Past President

Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742 303.771.3431
mcburger3@juno.com

HISTORIAN

Warren Finch, 303.233.3372

FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS

Patty Echelmeyer, 303.233.4947,
Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct
Jackie King, 303.287.1644,
Feb, May, Aug, Nov
Meredith Anderson, 303.280.8576
Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec

Lark Bunting Editor/Webmaster

Veronica Holt, 303.646.3829
veronicaholt@Q.com

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Dick Kolbe, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, trip reports from the previous month, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome and openly solicited. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80232, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net.

Additional Reports

Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 1221 E Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128 dacbccook@comcast.net.

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbccook@comcast.net.

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson meander303@mac.com.

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303-771-1421, email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is back-up contact person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email d_d_hill@comcast.net.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Denver Field Ornithologists 2010 Membership Application

Please indicate: ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st.

- ☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00
☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00

For those who wish to have the field trip reports mailed to them, rather than downloading from the DFO web site, please add an additional \$10 to your regular membership.

☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

☐ Contribution to the Colorado Rare Bird Alert \$_____

With the Rock Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sightings of rare or unusual birds, located on the Colorado Field Ornithologists website.

☐ Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund \$_____

DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Electronic Lark Bunting Email address: _____

Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742

**FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE MARCH 2010 -
TUESDAY BIRDERS**

SPECIES	TUESDAY BIRDERS					
DATE	2	9	18	23	30	
LOCATION	OLD	BEA	CHE	BEL	BAR	TOTAL
Canada Goose	193	357	51	100	6	707
Wood Duck				2	10	12
Gadwall		1	25	16	24	66
American Wigeon					2	2
Mallard	79	11	12	25	15	142
Cinnamon Teal					4	4
Northern Shoveler			24	146	12	182
Green-winged Teal		2	21	7	5	35
Canvasback				4		4
Redhead			10		6	16
Ring-necked Duck	1			12		13
Lesser Scaup				18	5	23
Bufflehead			3	4	3	10
Common Goldeneye	2	20	6	6		34
Hooded Merganser	2	5	18			25
Common Merganser			11			11
Pied-billed Grebe			1			1
Horned Grebe			1			1
Eared Grebe			1			1
Western Grebe					3	3
American White Pelican			1			1
Double-crested Cormorant			6	3	22	31
Great Blue Heron			2		5	7
Bald Eagle			3			3
Northern Harrier	1		1		1	3
Cooper's Hawk	1	1	2	2		6
Red-tailed Hawk	3	2	3		5	13
American Kestrel	1		2		3	6
American Coot			12		15	27
Killdeer			3		9	12
Wilson's Snipe				1		1
Ring-billed Gull	4	22	176	36	6	244
California Gull			1			1
Herring Gull			4			4
Rock Pigeon	2			13		15
Eurasian Collared-Dove					6	6
Mourning Dove				2	1	3
Great Horned Owl	1	2	2		3	8
Belted Kingfisher	2	1	1	3	1	8
Downy Woodpecker	2	2			5	9
Hairy Woodpecker					1	1

**FIELD TRIP
SUMMARY TABLE
MARCH 2010 - DFO**

SPECIES	DFO FIELD TRIPS									TOTAL
DATE	4	6	7	13	14	20	21	27	28	
LOCATION	CAN	LOV	WAL	GOL	BAR	BOU	PUE	BEA	FOU	
Snow Goose							1			1
Cackling Goose	4							100		104
Canada Goose	60						20	120	40	240
Wood Duck					15		16			31
Gadwall					42		36	47	9	134
American Wigeon	200				74		27	17	10	328
Mallard	12				82		40	17	45	196
Cinnamon Teal									2	2
Northern Shoveler					103		22	4	6	135
Northern Pintail							1	2		3
Green-winged Teal					7		15			22
Redhead								8	10	18
Ring-necked Duck								22	4	26
Greater Scaup								13		13
Lesser Scaup	1							84	40	125
Bufflehead							73	5	7	85
Common Goldeneye								5	10	15
Hooded Merganser	2						4	1	2	9
Common Merganser	4								25	29
Red-breasted Merganser									1	1
Ruddy Duck									100	100
Ring-necked Pheasant					4					4
Scaled Quail	14									14
Pied-billed Grebe							5		3	8
Horned Grebe									5	5
Eared Grebe									2	2
Double-crested Cormorant							1			1
Great Blue Heron							5	1	2	8
Bald Eagle					7				3	10
Northern Harrier	1				7		1		2	11
Sharp-shinned Hawk							1			1
Cooper's Hawk	1							3		4
Red-tailed Hawk	10			3	14		12	4	6	49
Ferruginous Hawk							1		1	2
Rough-legged Hawk				1						1
American Kestrel	4				8		1	5	2	20

Marsh Wren						1			1	
Golden-crowned Kinglet					1				1	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet						1		1	2	
Eastern Bluebird						4			4	
Western Bluebird	4					1			5	
Mountain Bluebird	8			8	5	4			25	
Townsend's Solitaire	30			5			6		41	
Swainson's Thrush				4					4	
American Robin	12			4	8		46	35	30	135
Curve-billed Thrasher	2						1			3
European Starling	10						20	67	25	122
Cedar Waxwing							12			12
Yellow-rumped Warbler							2			2
Green-tailed Towhee	1									1
Spotted Towhee								6	2	8
Canyon Towhee	2						2			4
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	2									2
American Tree Sparrow							1			1
Song Sparrow	14			1	3		4	4	5	31
White-crowned Sparrow	22				6		25		2	55
Golden-crowned Sparrow								1		1
Dark-eyed Junco	100			3	26		21	34	12	196
Red-winged Blackbird	20				125		40	12	50	247
Western Meadowlark					46		2	7	4	59
Great-tailed Grackle					5				1	6
Cassin's Finch				7						7
House Finch	24			2	9		12	12	10	69
Red Crossbill				20						20
Pine Siskin	4						8	4	2	18
American Goldfinch	4				38					42
House Sparrow	4				60		2		5	71
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	733	0	0	144	833	28	583	716	656	3,693
TOTAL SPECIES	44	0	0	23	39	3	61	43	54	108

Canon City (CAN)

Golden Gate State Park (GOL)

Barr Lake State Park (BAR)

Boulder's High Country (BOU)

Pueblo Area (PUE)

Bear Creek Lake Park and Red Rocks Park (BEA)

Fountain Creek Regional Park (FOU)

Peregrine Falcon							2		2
Prairie Falcon				2			2	1	5
Virginia Rail						4		2	6
American Coot	2						3	9	14
Sandhill Crane	14								14
Killdeer						2		3	5
Long-billed Dowitcher							2		2
Ring-billed Gull				6		3	7	100	116
Rock Pigeon	60					1	8	10	79
Eurasian Collared-Dove	8			5		6		1	20
White-winged Dove						1			1
Mourning Dove	6			3		7		2	18
Barn Owl				1		1			2
Great Horned Owl				4		1	3		8
Long-eared Owl				3					3
Belted Kingfisher	1			1		7		2	11
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	2								2
Downy Woodpecker				9		4		9	22
Hairy Woodpecker				3	1	2			6
Northern Flicker	5			1	3	8	5	7	29
Say's Phoebe								1	1
Black Phoebe						2			2
Steller's Jay				18					18
Blue Jay	2				2	1			5
Western Scrub-Jay	12						10		22
Clark's Nutcracker				1					1
Black-billed Magpie					14	6	13	4	37
American Crow				2	8	20	3	6	39
Common Raven				5			2	2	9
Horned Lark					62				62
Black-capped Chickadee				2	12	5	8	9	36
Mountain Chickadee				21		25			46
Juniper Titmouse	12								12
Bushtit	30								30
Red-breasted Nuthatch				5		2			7
White-breasted Nuthatch	1			7		2		2	12
Pygmy Nuthatch				20					20
Brown Creeper				1	3	2			6
Rock Wren						1			1
Canyon Wren	1						2		3
Bewick's Wren	1					6			7

Northern Flicker	12	6	5	8	3	34
Blue Jay	2				3	5
Black-billed Magpie	8	6	10	11	7	42
American Crow	1	4	17	9		31
Common Raven	1					1
Tree Swallow				1		1
Black-capped Chickadee	11	2	3	3	3	22
White-breasted Nuthatch	4		1		1	6
American Dipper		1				1
Mountain Bluebird		2				2
Townsend's Solitaire				1		1
American Robin	10	2	11	24	50	97
European Starling	7	6	51	26	55	145
American Tree Sparrow		1		1		2
Song Sparrow	3			1	2	6
White-crowned Sparrow					1	1
Dark-eyed Junco	7	3	1		17	28
Red-winged Blackbird	3	38		20	66	127
Western Meadowlark					5	5
Common Grackle					1	1
House Finch	6	8		5		19
American Goldfinch					15	15
House Sparrow				4	2	6
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	369	505	502	514	409	2,299
TOTAL SPECIES	27	24	36	31	41	64

Old Stone House (OLD)

Bear Creek Lake Park (BEA)

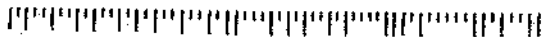
Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)

Belmar Historic Park

(BEL)

Barr Lake State Park

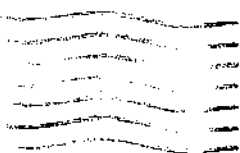
(BAR)



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Kathie Gully
Alfred M Bailey Library & Archives
Denver Museum Nature & Science
2001 Colorado Blvd.,
Denver CO 80205-5798

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742



Upcoming DFO Feature Presentations



Dragonflies and Damselflies of Colorado
With David Leatherman
Monday, February 22, 2010

Birding 2.0 -- Using Technology to Become a Better Birder...With Ted Floyd, Bill Schmoker, and Nathan Pieplow
Monday, March 22, 2010



The Lark Bunting

APRIL 2010

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 45, Number 4

A Refresher Course on Calls and Songs of Avian Spring Migrants Nathan Pieplow -- Monday, April 26, 2010

What ARE bird songs and how do they differ from bird calls?

According to Frank B. Gill (1990) bird's vocalizations allow them to "mediate social interactions, particularly over long distances, at night, and in dense cover." Clicks and clacks, chips, cheeps, buzzes, squawks, trills and peeps enable DFO members to tune in to the daily activities of our avian neighbors. It is often said that the best birders have the best trained ears.

Some bird species have only one identifiable song. Some of the mimics such as the northern mockingbird have hundreds of songs. Some birds such as the wood thrush can control both sides of their trachea independently and thus can sing two songs at the same time. Similar abilities have been discovered in grebes, bitterns, ducks, sandpipers, and various other songbirds. In October of 2007 Ted Floyd told us about a small, cryptically colored Asian species in which the male and female sing one song simultaneously with each contributing only 50% of the notes.

In 1956 P. Marler studied the vocalizations of Europe's common chaffinch and identified the following: songs and subsongs, along with flight, social, injury, aggression, alarm, and courtship calls. In 1954 L. de Kiriline listened to a red-eyed vireo which sang 22,197 songs in a ten hour period. (Does one question the sanity of the ornithologist?)

Continued on next page

April Field Trips



Saturday, April 3 *Cherry Creek State Park*

Leader: Buzz Schaumburg, 303 699-1721. Meet at 0830 at the marina. ½ day trip. From Yosemite Street go east on Union Avenue past Cherry Creek High School to park entrance. We'll be looking for permanent residents plus "movers" (migrants going through to summer ranges or arriving here for the breeding season.) Parks Pass Required.

Sunday April 4 **EASTER – no trip.**

Saturday, April 10 *Aurora's Ponderosa Pine Preserve*

Leader: Mary Ann Bonnell, 303-739-2428. Must register with leader for meeting time and place. Area offers montane birding in a prairie setting. Mary Ann will know the latest bird happenings in the area!

Sunday, April 11 *South Mesa Trail*

Leader: Paula Hansley, 720-890-2628. (cell 303-263-1714) Meet at 0800 at RTD parking lot at southeast corner of intersection of State Highways 93 and 170 (Marshall) for carpooling. ½ day trip. Expect to see foothills species on an easy walk through shrubby, deciduous woodland.

April Field Trips, continued

Saturday, April 17

Barr Lake State Park

Leader: Bob Andrews, 303-249-5220. Parks Pass needed. Meet at 0730 at Nature Center. From Denver take East I-76 to Bromley Lane, exit 22. Go east to Piccadilly Road, turn south for about 2 miles to Park Entrance. Bob co-authored, with Bob Righter, *Birds of Colorado*. We're glad to have him in our leader lineup! Lunch optional. May bird into the afternoon.

Sunday, April 18

Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch

Leader: Tim Smart, 303-439-9627. Meet at 0800. Exit I-70 at Morrison. Go south to first parking lot on left after freeway entrance. Scopes would be helpful! Steep uphill walk to ridge. Length of trip will depend on weather and number of migrants moving. Tim has had over 20 years of hawk watch counting in many places across the country, so we'll be in good hands!

Saturday, April 24

The Arsenal

Leader: David Rhoades, 303-424-8633. Must register with leader for meeting time and place. Half-day trip limited to 9 people. David will give directions to Arsenal. He is up-to-date on the changing birding scene out here!

Sunday, April 25

***McCabe Meadows Park* (formerly Parker Regional Park)**

Leader: Steve Kennedy 303-815-9738. Meet at 0730 for ½ day trip. From Main St. intersection in Parker, take Highway 83 south for 1.2 miles. Right on Indian Pipe Lane to the parking lot on the right. (The park is on the west side of the road) Wear your walking shoes – we'll go rain or shine. We may look into Triple C Ranch's marsh and pond. Surprises could be in store for us!

Thursday, April 29

***Chico Basin* - \$10 entrance fee per person**

Leader: Chuck Thornton-Kolbe 303-777-7588. Meet at 0530 (!!) at Park 'n Ride at Yale Ave, just west of I-25 (Right turn at Yale then immediate right again into parking lot. Go to end and look for binoculars attached to people) Carpooling for this long, all-day jaunt. Bring provisions and dress for weather changes at this migrant trap on the plains that can be full of avian wonders.

Other Bird Happenings:

Castlewood Canyon State Park, south of Franktown, is again holding its "Welcome Back Turkey Vultures!" celebration. Call 303-688-5242 for information or check their web site, <http://parks.state.co.us/Parks/CastlewoodCanyon/Pages/CastlewoodCanyonHome.aspx>

Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer 303-233-4947, compiled by Cris Cook

Calls and Songs, continued

For months DFO members have been listening to the conversations of Colorado's winter residents from a skein of Canada geese passing overhead, to the neighborhood flock of bushtits in the leafless lilac bushes, to the black-capped chickadees and dark-eyed juncos at the feeder. In recent days however, a few tentative spring songs have been heard in the urban forest. A few mourning doves have been around all winter, but now some secret signal from nature seems to have awakened their biological clocks causing them to announce the early beginnings of spring with their soft, distinctive cooing calls.

Have you grown weary of the winter vocalizations of our feathered friends? Do you long for the distant call of migrating sandhill cranes, for Roxborough ovenbirds calling from oak thickets, for the melodious notes of a Red Rocks Park canyon wren echoing off the red sandstone formations, or the magic sound of a MacGillivray's warbler emanating from a creekside willow carr?

If so, then you are primed to spend an evening with Nathan who will discuss and play recordings of the songs of common spring migrants, providing a timely refresher course on the sounds of spring in Colorado, with an emphasis on telling bird sounds apart by using patterns. The presentation should give members some new ideas about what to focus on when listening to birds. Nathan will also touch on some questions of high-frequency hearing loss and how it affects birders.

Nathan Pieplow is an avid bird sound recordist, the esteemed editor of the quarterly journal *Colorado Birds*, and an author of the *Colorado Birding Trail*. His blog which is found at Earbirding.com, is dedicated to recording, identifying, and interpreting bird sounds. He teaches writing and rhetoric at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Birding 2.0 -- Using Technology to Become a Better Birder...with Ted Floyd, Bill Schmoker, and Nathan Pieplow, Monday 22.

I'm sure almost every DFO birder has experimented with technological aids of one type or another; from websites to GPS to iPods singing out bird calls in the field. Ted, Bill, and Nathan will amaze you with their INTERACTIVE presentation. They will showcase a wide variety of the latest technological resources available in the market today for the tech-savvy birder.

Continued on next page

What's in a Name?



I always enjoy finding Franklin's Gulls and wondered about the namesake of this bird. Sir John Franklin, an officer in the Royal Navy and a renowned explorer of the Northwest, was born in 1786. He was the youngest of 12 boys and as a youth joined the navy spending the rest of his life in its service. His explorations included an attempt to reach the North Pole in 1818. His first attempt in 1819 to find the Northwest Passage from the Arctic to the Pacific ocean ended two years later, returning without a penny, amid rumors of starvation, murder and cannibalism. Hmmm, not DFO leader qualities! Sir John made several more voyages to the north but disappeared in 1845 trying to cross the Arctic by sea.

The gull was named by Louis Jean Pierre Vieillot (a French ornithologist) for Sir John, and the bird was described by Johann G. Wagler, Director of the Zoological Museum of the University of Munich. Interestingly, Sir John already had birds named after him, including Franklin's Grouse (Spruce Grouse) and Franklin's Nightjar before his disappearance. After his watery end, a number of new birds were discovered during the searches for him, and named after the commanders of the searches.

Good Birding to all, Niña

Source: *Whose Bird?* Bo Beolens and Michael Watkins

Techno Birding, continued

Ted Floyd is the editor of *Birding*, the flagship publication of the American Birding Association. He is the author of numerous articles and two recent books, including *The Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (HarperCollins). Ted is a frequent speaker at bird festivals and other birding events, and he is an instructor with the ABA's Institute for Field Ornithology. His last two appearances before the DFO audience were "The Most Excellent Birds in the World" (Oct. 2007), and "Birding at Night: The Ultimate Frontier" (March 2009) about the mid to late summer molt migration of Colorado chipping sparrows.

Bill Schmoker's greatest professional accomplishment is being a dedicated middle school science teacher in Longmont where he lives with this wife and son. He is the past president of Colorado Field Ornithologists and in his spare time he is an accomplished nature photographer whose work has appeared in magazines, field guides, newspapers, interpretive signage, advertisements, corporate logos, websites, and other venues. He is also a busy blogger, columnist, instructor, speaker, and tour leader for ABA and other organizations, and he is a Nikon Birding ProStaffer. Visit Bill at <http://schmoker.org> or <http://brdpics.blogspot.com>.

Nathan Pieplow teaches writing at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and is the distinguished editor of CFO's quarterly journal *Colorado Birds*. Nathan has been a key figure in the development and implementation of the online Colorado County Birding website, an innovative electronic birdfinding guide, and of the Colorado Birding Trail, with its unique emphasis on creating partnerships between private ranchers and the state's birding community.

All persons in attendance on March 22nd will receive a FREE copy of *Let's Go Birding!* a new beginner's guide by Ted Floyd and Bill Schmoker, published by the American Birding Association. Thanks to the ABA for this special offer. Whether you love your computer, Blackberry, and iPod or hate them, join us for an entertaining and informative presentation by three of Colorado's top birders and leaders in the use of technology in the pursuit of our feathered friends.

Join us for a fascinating evening in preparation for one of Nature's miracles: Spring migration! May through July - No DFO meetings. Next DFO meeting is August 23, 2010 - Ted Floyd and Nocturnal Migrations of Birds (the 4th Monday, not the last Monday). September 27, 2010 - Black Swifts in Colorado with Jason Beason of RMBO.

The Denver Field Ornithologists monthly meetings are held in Ricketson Auditorium at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science in City Park. These meetings are free and open to the public and occur on the 4th Monday of each month August through April (except December). Park on the north side of the museum and walk around and enter through the museum's west door. Plan to arrive by 7:15pm; DOORS OPEN BY 7:00 AND ARE LOCKED AT 7:30pm. If late, you can enter through the security/volunteer door, but this creates problems for our hosts.

"How the Sausage is Made!"

February 2010 DFO Board Report

The D.F.O. Board of Directors met the evening of February 18, 2010, and discussed the following items and issues:

- * DFO's current membership stands at approximately the same level as it did in 2009 with 334 members; 101 members receive the Lark Bunting by U.S. mail and 233 receive it by e-mail. E-mail memberships greatly reduce publication and distribution costs.
- * President Chuck Thornton-Kolbe and Treasurer Bob Shade have worked diligently in recent months to update DFO's financial status and reinstate DFO's Federal nonprofit tax status. Financial reports for 2007, 2008, and 2009 were reviewed in preparation for our reapplication for nonprofit status on April 15, 2010. Additionally, the 2010 DFO budget was accepted with new accounting procedures for separating out the general fund moneys, the Rare Bird Alert Fund, and the Educational Endowment Fund. A special fund of \$6000 was established for the Rare Bird Alert, and provisions were set up to have DFO's books audited annually.
- * The Board increased the levels of compensation -- honoraria and travel expenses -- for speakers for DFO's monthly meetings.
- * Deb Bogar discussed using the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's eBird database as another digital means of storing and sharing D.F.O. trip records. DFO is going to move forward with the use of eBird and is encouraging field trip leaders to learn and use eBird.
- * The slate of officers and Board members for 2010/2011 was discussed and will be presented to the membership at the April meeting.
- * The Board awarded two Educational Endowment Grants totaling \$1500 (see announcement elsewhere in this newsletter).
- * Lastly, a subcommittee was created to look at the history of the Educational Endowment Grants program, re-evaluate its purpose, and make proposals for improving the process of soliciting applications and making grants for worthy projects.

- Submitted by Chris A. Blakeslee, DFO Board Member

Welcome New and Returning Members!

Jason King, 9473 W Finland Dr, Littleton, CO 80127-8540 720.200.5057
Nicolle Martin, 9546 W Victoria Dr, Littleton, CO 80128 303.904.8686
Pat Skinner, 5624 Thunderhill Rd, Parker, CO 80134 303.841.5156
Jeffery Stroup, 6352 S Coventry Ln, Littleton, CO 80123-6742 303.730.6979

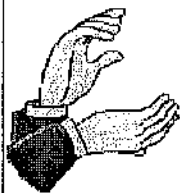
Contributions:

To The Educational Endowment Fund: Don Mullineaux, Kathy Bollhoefer,

To the Colorado Rare Bird Alert: Don Mullineaux, Bill & JoAnn Hackos, Nicolle Martin, Jim Fischer

An extra special THANK YOU to members who have supported the Rare Bird Alert with extra donations. We now have more than enough funds to pay the phone bill for several years to come. Therefore the DFO Board has decided to remove the RBA donation from the membership form. It is a "moral" issue of accepting funds for a project that is not needed. We will still gratefully accept donations to the Educational Endowment Fund.

Mary Cay Burger



DFO Archives at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science

You just never know where fascinating facts about not only Colorado bird species, but DFO members, might appear! Recently I was delivering electronic minutes files and other Evergreen Audubon (TENAS) archival material to Kris Haglund, director of the Alfred M. Bailey Library and Archives at the DMNS. In Volume 12(5) (1 May 1982) of *The Dipper*, the late Bill Brockner wrote in his president's column, "The club takes great delight in congratulating Chris Blakeslee, on his nomination for a Conservation Teacher of the Year Award in Colorado. We sincerely hope Chris will be the recipient of this honor." I shared it with Chris and he said he went on to be selected regional and then national winner too, as well as receiving a couple other awards! A belated congratulations, Chris!

Recently I discovered a photo of Lynn Willcockson in the 1960 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* 30(2):40 < <http://library.iowabirds.org/>. He was vice president of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) just before he moved to Denver! IOU's loss was DFO's gain! The IOU archives are housed at Iowa State University, and the IOU scanned and placed 80 years of journals on the Ann Barker Memorial Library at the IOU website listed above. All but the two most recent years (for members only) are available to the public.

These are just two examples of the value and interconnectedness of institutional archives. Colorado birders are fortunate that the DFO, Colorado Field Ornithologists (CFO), Evergreen Audubon (TENAS), and many individuals have had the foresight to donate their important documents to the Alfred M. Bailey Library and Archives where researchers and the public can readily access them. DFO Historian Warren Finch has been a tireless keeper of the DFO records for many years and is working with Kris Haglund to be sure that all DFO material is in the archives. Kris and the DMNS staff listed below can assist researchers needing access to the collections. Below is information provided by Kris Haglund on the ornithology-related collections at the DMNS.

Online resources:

Archives and Image Archives collections searchable at <http://rmoa.unm.edu>. Contact information: Archives, 303.370.8353, kris.haglund@dmns.org; Image Archives, 303.370.8250, rene.payne@dmns.org. Library collections searchable at <http://www.dmns.org/librarycatalog> (approximately 1,900 catalog records of books, periodicals, archival collections, and dioramas related to ornithology). Contact information: 303.370.6362, Kathie.gully@dmns.org.

Archives/Image Archives Collections information:

Records of the Denver Field Ornithologists, Colorado Field Ornithologists, and The Evergreen Naturalist Audubon Society. Bird sighting records spanning the late 1800s to present, including those of Ed Andrews, Robert Andrews, William Chase Bradbury, Norman DeWitt Betts, Edwin Carter, Helen Downing, Alva Felger, L.J. Hersey, Hugh Kingery, Frederick C. Lincoln, Thompson Marsh, Jack Merchant, Jack Reddall, Robert Righter, Robert Rockwell, Alexander Wetmore. Field journals, photographs, and films of Alfred M. Bailey, Photographs of nature photographer Joseph Van Wormer. Photographs of Kenneth and Jean Bigwood (New Zealand) and Peter Ginn (Africa). Artwork for the Birds of Colorado publications. African bird field sketches by Donald Leo Malick. By Kay Niyo

"In the spring time, the only pretty ring time, When birds do sing, hey ding a ding; Sweet lovers love the spring." William Shakespeare...

TITLE: "Bird Courtship in the Rockies"

Dates : Thursdays, April 22nd and April 29th. Time, 6:30-9pm for both dates

Instructor : Tina Jones [303-906-5479], offered through The Audubon Society of Greater Denver.

Pre-registration required. \$20/friends member, \$23/non-member. Call 303-973-9530 to register and for directions.

Course Description : Colorado birdwatching is more fun when you understand why birds do what they do, particularly during courtship and nesting. Learn how Common Nighthawks, Wilson's Snipe, certain Hummingbirds, and some Grouse make bizarre courtship sounds with their feathers and air sacs. Learn about strategies male and female birds use to attract each other. Which sex raises the young? It is sometimes the male! How do some birds raise their young? Which Colorado birds mate for life and who sneaks around? Discover how to attract native Colorado nesting birds to your yard, no matter at what elevation you live. Nest boxes will be discussed.

Capture the Voices of Nature at Recording Workshop

Register now for Cornell Lab of Ornithology Course

Ithaca, NY—Have you ever wondered how the spectacular wildlife sounds that appear in everything from natural history films to museums exhibits to television commercials are recorded? The annual **Sound Recording Workshop** offered by the **Cornell Lab of Ornithology** immerses students in field recording and shows them techniques used by the pros to capture bird sounds. The next session takes place **June 12-19** at San Francisco State University's **Sierra Nevada Field Campus** in the spectacular Tahoe National Forest.

The Sound Recording Workshop is taught by skilled recordists on the Cornell Lab's **Macaulay Library** staff. "This workshop is appropriate for all who have an interest in recording wildlife sounds," says audio curator Greg Budney. "Whether you are a seasoned researcher or someone who's never recorded a bird before, we give you the knowledge and skills to make superb wildlife recordings for education, research, and conservation."

Through daily field recording sessions, lectures, and demonstrations, participants learn how to get the most out of their field recording equipment and take advantage of every recording opportunity. They also receive an introduction to sound analysis software that converts sound waves into visual images so they can "see" a bird's song, note by note.

Alumni of the program have gone on to record natural sounds around the world and contribute recordings to the Macaulay Library archive—the largest archive of bird and animal sounds in the world. The recordings are used for scientific study, conservation, education, and have appeared in popular media from CDs to movies.



Photo by Dave Herr © Cornell Lab of Ornithology

The Sound Recording Workshop fee of \$945 covers tuition, class materials, local transportation, food, lodging, and the loan of a recording system for the course to the first six registrants who request it. A deposit is requested to reserve a space in the workshop, which is limited to 20 students. **Registration and a \$100 down-payment are due by May 10.** Visit the **Sound Recording Workshop web page** to learn more and have a look at some of the images from the 2008 workshop.

Registration contact:

Nancy Schrempf, Macaulay Library
(607) 254-2153
ns29@cornell.edu



The Owl and the Woodpecker an evening with author Paul Bannick
Monday, March 15, 7:00 - 8:30pm

Denver Flagship REI Store

To Register: 303-973-9530 or info@denveraudubon.org

Paul Bannick's work has appeared in Audubon, Sunset, Pacific Northwest, and PhotoMedia magazines, as well as the National Wildlife Federation Guide to North American Birds, Smithsonian Guide to North American Birds and many other books and magazines. Paul has appeared on several NPR stations, on Travel With Rick Steves, and is a regular guest of Bird-Note. National Public Radio's recent blog on Paul's owl photography is among their most popular to date. Paul's first book, *The Owl and the Woodpecker*, continues to be one of the best selling bird books in North America and was a finalist for the Washington State Book Award for general non-fiction.

So Sayeth the Speaker...

The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Colorado with Dave Leatherman, entomologist

There was a full house of birders at the Museum on February 22, poised to widen their field of vision to include Odonata, the order of insects encompassing both Damselflies and Dragonflies.

Putting aside the queasiness brought on by the extruding alien jaw and the sci-fi behaviors like "The Wheel Position" and "Flying United" (you had to be there), these small flying creatures share many qualities with birds.

- ☞ If you can get past the bizarre lower mandible, you might find "toothed ones" to be, perhaps, almost as beautiful as birds. Most are stunningly colored and display lovely geometric and curved patterns on body and wings alike.
- ☞ They have varied flight and behavior patterns, and these can help differentiate the species. Some patrol back and forth endlessly (Darners), some perch on gravel road (Dancers), some sit on the tippy top of vegetation, and some hang up 20 feet in the air and never seem to come down (Wandering Gliders).
- ☞ They are hard to identify. With 6500 species worldwide, they'll challenge us for years to come. One caveat... Identification often requires a net and a microscope. Dave gave us a good starting point. At rest, Damselflies hold their wings above the body and parallel to it, while Dragonflies hold their wings open and to the side of the body.
- ☞ As with birds, small size does not mean weakness. Globe Skimmers can travel long distances, up to 18,000 km over water as they migrate from India to Africa. In a quirky twist of interrelatedness, the toothed guys may be trailed by flocks of birds who perceive them as in-flight snacks.
- ☞ Both birds and Odonata have captivating names, but the insects have the edge when it comes to delicate and ethereal names. Red-tailed Hawk can't compare with the Rainbow Bluet, the Ebony Jewelwing and the Ocelated Emerald.
- ☞ These creatures have environmental challenges just as birds do: natural enemies (such as BIRDS among other insects and aquatic beasts), artificially stagnated water, diminishment of wetlands, chemical pollutants, elimination of key plants, drought, grazing, fish introductions. Dave emphasized that collection (something we left behind in the history of bird appreciation) is not a threat to our little insect friends.

Dave left us with some book suggestions: *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the West* by Dennis Paulston, *Dragonflies through Binoculars* by Sidney W. Dunkle, and *Dragonflies and Damselflies of Texas and the South-Central United States* by John C. Abbott.

Thank you, Dave, for opening our eyes to that which has always been before us. Carol Blackard

DFO Educational Endowment Grants Awarded

1. \$1000.00 was awarded to Sigrid Ueblacker's Birds of Prey Foundation in Broomfield to support the Foundation's ongoing efforts in bird rehabilitation and in raptor education. Donations were made to DFO's Endowment Fund in 2009 specifically in memory of Sigrid who died suddenly last October.
2. \$500.00 was awarded to The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society (TENAS) for a project to revise and update Sylvia Brockner's *Birds In Our Evergreen World* (1974). This book has been educating Evergreen residents about their natural environment for years, and upon completion of the new edition, sales will continue this mission as well as help support TENAS's Nature Center at Evergreen Lake and its educational outreach work in the community. DFO's grant will be matched by anonymous donations from Evergreen.

Submitted by Tina Jones and Chris Blakeslee

Creative Ways to Learn Bird Sounds with Alison Kondler

One of the more difficult aspects of birding is learning bird sounds. Luckily you don't have to rely on just your auditory memory to "tune-in" to the songs and calls of birds. This four-hour program will teach you how to hear with your eyes. Fun techniques including, ways to observe the bird, visual clues, diagnostic sounds, creative mnemonics, comparative ideas and personalizing your interpretation. This class will start indoors with a fantastic presentation, then go outside to listen and observe the birds on an easy walk. Novice to expert birders welcome! For more information, call Alison Kondler at 303-904-9140. Must call pertaining number below to make a reservation.

Saturday March 27th at Audubon Nature Center at Waterton Canyon - 8am – 12:00pm \$12.00 non-members/\$10.00 members Call 303.973.9530 for reservations. Space is Limited.

Saturday April 17th at Roxborough State Park Visitor Center - 8am – 12:00pm - No fee - 8:00am to 12:00pm - Call 303-973-3959 for reservations. Space is Limited. CO Parks Pass / Day Pass needed.

Saturday May 1st at Roxborough State Park Visitor Center 8am – 12:00pm – DFO Trip – No fee - 8:00am to 12:00pm - Call 303-973-3959 for reservations. Space is Limited. CO Parks Pass / Day Pass needed.

Saturday June 26th at Roxborough State Park Visitor Center - 8am – 12:00pm - No fee - 8:00am to 12:00pm - Call 303-973-3959 for reservations. Space is Limited. CO Parks Pass / Day Pass needed.

Saturday July 24th O'Fallon Park - Kittredge, CO - Intensive sound study in the field. DFO Trip – No fee – 7:00am to 1:30pm – Field trip only. More information to come in the July 2010 *Lark Bunting*.

ColonyWatchers Wanted

In 2009 and 2010, the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory will be attempting to gather data for all colonially-nesting waterbirds in Colorado. We are off to a good start this year and have located volunteers to cover most of the known breeding sites. However, there are some locations that are still in need of a colonywatcher. If you know of a nest site for any of the below species or suspect that any of them may be breeding in a location, we would really appreciate location information and, if possible, a count of the colony size. In Colorado there are 15 species of colonially-nesting waterbirds that we are attempting to monitor:

Island nesters

American White Pelican
Double-crested Cormorant
California Gull
Western Grebe
Clark's Grebe
Eared Grebe

Tree nesters

Black-crowned Night-Heron
Great Blue Heron
Snowy Egret
Great Egret
Cattle Egret

Marsh nesters

Black Tern
Forster's Tern
White-faced Ibis
Franklin's Gull

What information are we looking for?

Location information is very important for the success of this project. We prefer this information in UTM format (NAD 83 projection), but will be happy with any location information.

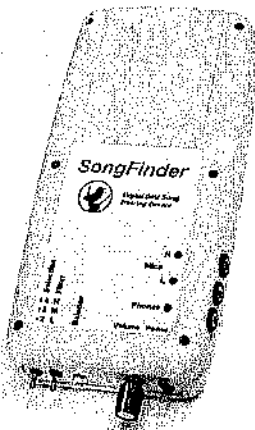
For the tree- and shrub-nesting species (Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Double-crested Cormorant, White-faced Ibis), we are after a count of all active nests in the colony. Therefore, it is best to conduct surveys for these species before the trees leaf out. You can still obtain useful data if trees have already leafed out, however. A count of adults or juveniles present is also good information.

For ground-nesting species (White-faced Ibis, California Gull, Forster's Tern), we would like a count of active nests; however, a count of adults is also useful information. If you accidentally flush birds, then this can be an opportunity to get a count of the colony size.

For marsh-nesting species (Black-crowned Night-Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, White-faced Ibis, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, Black Tern, Forster's Tern, Franklin's Gull), a count of active nests is most desirable. A method that works well with this type of bird is to conduct flight-line counts of adults. If you have the time, you can spend a morning (beginning shortly after sunrise and continuing until about three hours after the birds start leaving the colony) counting all the individuals that leave the breeding site to go to a foraging area. This works very well for White-faced Ibis breeding sites.

It is important to try and not cause excessive disturbance at any of the breeding sites. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact me and I will send more information about the sites in need of a colonywatcher and datasheets. Jason Beason
Special Monitoring Projects Coordinator, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, 970-527-4625 jason.beason@rnbob.org

"SongFinder" Reviewed by Mel Goff



Background

I am 64 years old and have high frequency hearing loss. I spent 21 years in the US Army and the noise levels from computers, heavy equipment and weapons did me no favors. I have been birding with my wife, Jeanne, since a trip we took to the Everglades National Park in 2002. We make quite a team as she can hear the birds and I can do a pretty good job of spotting them. I tried all the latest and greatest hearing aids, and while they amplified the sounds that were within my frequency range, they did nothing to let me hear the sounds from the higher frequencies where the majority of birdies tweet.

I could never justify the cost of those hearing aids when they did not do the one thing I wanted from them. Then I saw an ad in the ABA's "Birding" magazine for a product called SongFinder. It alluded to its ability to digitally convert high frequency sounds to lower frequencies thus enabling people like me to once again hear the birds.

Let's Check It Out

With some optimism and much skepticism, Jeanne and I went into the home office and opened the Nature Sound Electronics webpage at www.nselec.com. I went from page to page reading about the frequency shifting technology, the testimonials, and the ordering information, until I finally came to the "Sound Samples" link.

On this page there are pictures of 16 birds that I had long ago decided were mute. After all, I could hear a Crow, so why couldn't I hear a Yellow Warbler? I clicked first on that YW and a voice said "Yellow Warbler" followed by silence. Jeanne said, "Yep, that's the Yellow Warbler". Then the voice said "Divide by two". Oh, my gosh, I heard it! It's a trick! It cannot be!

We listened to all 16 with the song divided by two, three, and four. Jeanne assured me that the "divide by two" option was by far the closest to the real song. The others had the same pattern and cadence, but the lower pitch came off as less than satisfactory.

Let's Give It a Tryout

Seeing that there was a 14-day refund policy, I decided to give the SongFinder a tryout. The only problem was that this was Monday, and we were leaving for Hawaii on Saturday. I called the company and I agreed to pay for FedEx second day delivery. I got the unit on Friday afternoon, just 12 hours before we had to head for the airport. On the plane I read the manual, then re-read the manual, then read it one more time. When we arrived in Lihue, Kauai, we had to get a rental car, buy groceries, drive to the resort, check-in, unpack – well, you get the picture. By now it is dark and the birds have retired for the evening.

The Big Day

Sunday morning, just after sunrise. We are dressed, we have our binocs and guides, and we head out to test the SongFinder for the first time.

At this point I want to tell you that the online demo did nothing to prepare me for the symphony of sound I would hear when we stepped into the resort parking lot. Cardinals (Northern and Red-crested), Japanese White-eyes, White-rumped Shammas, House Sparrows, House Finches, and Common Mynas all performed just for me. I could not believe what I was hearing! In fact, I decided to turn off the switch to see what would happen. When I did, all I could hear were the Zebra Doves, Spotted Doves, and Junglefowl that I had heard on our last visit to Kauai. I am not ashamed to say that when I turned the power back on, I shed a tear or two as the concerto of songbirds once again came through the headphones. I was now finally a BIRDER, not just a Bird Watcher. For the next 16 days on

Continued on next page

SongFinder, continued

Kauai, Maui, and Oahu, I heard the calls and songs of 76 species – seven of them Lifers for Jeanne and me. The endemics: I'iwi, Apapane, Amakihi, and Maui Creeper at Hosmer Grove. The Japanese Bush-warbler on Lower Koke'e Road. The Bulbuls and Shamas at Lyon Arboretum. I cannot begin to describe the feelings I had.

The Good

The unit is easy to set up and use. It is lightweight, and clips to my belt. The size of the unit (4" by 8") did not bother me in the least. Adjustments for volume and frequency were easy to make. I used just the first 4 AA batteries I installed for the full 16 days and did not have to replace them even though I did have backups with me.

The SongFinder does not change any of the sounds I can already hear. I still hear the doves and crows and jays and flickers just as I did before. Their songs and calls do not come through the headset and are not altered. That is an important fact, because directionality will be mentioned in the next section and SongFinder does not affect that for the birds I just mentioned. Herb at Nature Sound Electronics worked with me to get the unit delivered before I left, and even told me that if I had a problem with the unit, he would not be too strict on the 14 day policy since I told him our plans in advance.

The Bad

In actuality, there is no "Bad", but there are a couple of things I should mention. Directionality is not a strength of SongFinder. It lets me hear the birds, but it is not Full Surround Sound Stereo that would let me pinpoint birds. Jeanne still helps me with that. Also, birds that are far away still sound far away. The unit is a frequency converter, not an amplifier. I wear a large hat, size 7 and 7/8. The SongFinder headset is not adjustable like music headsets, so the one-size-fits-all idea is actually one-size-fits-most. It takes getting used to, but is something I gladly will adjust to. I plan to try to find a way to adjust the headset or see if the company has a larger model. The cost may put off some folks. At \$750 plus \$15 shipping, you may think it is too expensive. But let me tell you that it is a small price to pay for the benefits you will receive. Digital hearing aids that will do nothing to let you hear the birds can cost five times as much.

Conclusion

SongFinder has changed my birding life. I can't wait to get out in the mornings to hear the sounds of the winter birds. The chickadees, juncos, sparrows, finches, and Downies are beautiful to see, but even more beautiful when you can also hear them. I cannot speak to long-term reliability, but first results have been overwhelmingly positive. I wholeheartedly recommend SongFinder to any birder with high frequency hearing loss.

Please let me know if this review has helped you.

Good Birding, Everyone! I'll be the one out there with the funny headset on listening to the birds again – for the first time.

February Additional Reports

Species	Date	# Seen	Location	County	Observers
winterwren	2/10	1	Prospect Park, Wheatridge greenbelt	Jefferson	Mary Kay Burger, Kay Niño
rusty blackbird	2/14	2	Wheatridge greenbelt	Jefferson	Patty Echelmeyer

Many DFO thanks to Polleke Siraa for compiling this report for us, she's stepping down due to health reasons and we will miss her. Until her replacement can be found, please send additional reports to veronicaholt@Q.com.

Field Trip Summaries for February 2010

Feb 6, Saturday *Longmont (LON)*

Leader(s): Chris Owens. **Observers:** Gordon Hodgson, Jim Petri. **Time:** 0830-1300. **Distance:** 25 miles by car, ½ mile on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, agricultural, parks, pasture, elevation 5000'. **Weather:** Overcast, 15-30°F, variable wind, 5mph. **Totals:** 19 species, 1118 individuals.

Feb 7, Sunday *Eastern Plains Region (EAS)*

Leader(s): Joey Kellner. **Observers:** Derek Hankins, Stuart Liss, Dick Prickett, Dick Schottler, Tim Smart. **Time:** 0730-1730. **Distance:** 335 mile by car, ½ mile on foot. **Weather:** Overcast, morning fog and light snow, 22-34°F, northeast wind, 0-4mph. **Totals:** 42 species, 3997 individuals.

Feb 13, Saturday *Valley Country Club, Arapahoe County (VAL)*

Leader(s): Mary Burger and Kevin Ullrich. **Observers:** Don Beltz, Jacques Chartier, Jeff Dawson, Derek and Peggy Hankins, Mary Keithler, Steve Kennedy, Don, Roberta and Jaden Martinson, Nancy Osborn Peter Spanberger. **Time:** 0800-1200. **Distance:** 1½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Elevation 5660'. **Weather:** Cloudy, 30-40°F, west wind, 5-10mph. **Totals:** 27 species, 189 individuals.

Feb 14, Sunday *Gateway Mesa and Kingery Feeders (GAT)*

Leader(s): Urling Kingery. **Observers:** Karen Bellini, Tom Bunker, Gwen Kelaidis, Hugh Kingery, Dick Prickett, Tim Smart, Jeff Stroup. **Time:** 0900-1230. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Scattered, mixed ponderosa, juniper and scrub oak, elevation 6200'. **Weather:** Snowing first half-hour, clearing after, 11-30°F, west wind, 0-5mph. **Totals:** 26 species, 180 individuals.

Feb 20, Saturday *Chatfield State Park (CHA)*

Leader(s): Ed Holub. **Observers:** None. **Time:** 0800-1005. **Distance:** 18 miles by car, ½ mile on foot. **Habitat:** Lake (frozen), river riparian, plains, elevation 5400'. **Weather:** Cold, thick overcast, intermittent snow spit, 22-25°F, northeast wind, 0-5mph. **Totals:** 19 species, 429 individuals.

Feb 21, Sunday *Roxborough State Park (ROX)*

Cancelled due to inclement weather.

Feb 27, Saturday *Platte River and 88th*

Leader(s): Lou Mazzola. **Time:** 0800-1200. **Distance:** 1½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian and ponds, elevation 5280'. **Weather:** Sunny and warm, 30-50°F, northwest wind, 5-8mph. **Totals:** 34 species, 724 individuals.

Feb 28, Sunday *Wheat Ridge Greenbelt*

Leader(s): Patty Echelmeyer. **Observers:** Will Burt, Fred Hager, Mary Keithler, Monna Krebs, Judy Neimann, Ira Sanders, Tammy Sanders. **Time:** 0830-1100. **Distance:** 1¼ mile on foot. **Weather:** Partly cloudy, 32-44°F. **Totals:** 35 species, 661 individuals.

Tuesday Birders

Feb 2 *Chatfield State Park (CHA)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 36. **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 10 miles by car, 1½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Large reservoir, riparian, prairie grass, cottonwood, grassy areas, shoreline, elevation 5430'. **Weather:** Mostly clear, 30-47°F, variable wind, 5-15mph. **Totals:** 20 species, 351 individuals.

Feb 9 *Reynolds Landing (REY)*

Cancelled due to inclement weather.

Feb 16 *Reynolds Landing and Hudson Gardens (REY)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 29. **Time:** 0920-1320. **Distance:** 3½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Gravel ponds, riparian, cottonwood, willow, cattails, bicycle trail, elevation 5600'. **Weather:** Clear to cloudy, 23-40°F, variable wind, 0-7mph. **Totals:** 33 species, 613 individuals.

Feb 23 *Wheat Ridge Greenbelt Trail West (WHE)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 30 (two groups). **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, cottonwood, willow, cattails, elevation 5386'. **Weather:** Sunny, 21-39°F, east and south wind, 0-4mph. **Totals:** 34 species, 475 individuals.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

PRESIDENT

Charles Thomson-Kolbe, 2284 S Josephine Street, Denver CO 80210, 303.777.7588
Charles@pibird.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Lynn Willcockson, 2698 S Niagara, Denver CO 80224 303.757.7000
lynnliz2698@aol.com

TREASURER

Bob Shade, 9353 W Nevada Place, Lakewood CO 80226-3029, 303.975.2476
WRSHADE3@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Sue Schulman, 6024 E Briarwood Drive, Centennial CO 80112-1030, 303.773.3540
suenschulman@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

Rick and Connie Steinkamp (12)
ricconcal@comcast.net
John Drummond (12)
jxdrummo@aol.com
Carol Blackard (11)
carol-blackard@comcast.net
Ira Sanders (11) greatauk@msn.com
Niña Routh (10) nrouth@copper.net
Chris Blakeslee (10) chrisabla@aol.com

Membership Chair and Past President

Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742 303.771.3431
mcburger3@juno.com

HISTORIAN

Warren Finch, 303.233.3372

FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS

Patty Echelmeyer, 303.233.4947,
Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct
Jackie King, 303.287.1644,
Feb, May, Aug, Nov
Meredith Anderson, 303.280.8576
Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec

Lark Bunting Editor/Webmaster

Veronica Holt, 303.646.3829
veronicaholt@Q.com

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Dick Kolbe, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, trip reports from the previous month, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome and openly solicited. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80232, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net.

Additional Reports

Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 1221 E Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128 dacbcCook@comcast.net.

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcCook@comcast.net.

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson meander303@mac.com

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303-771-1421, email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is back-up contact person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email d_d_hill@comcast.net.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Rare Bird Alert: With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sightings of rare or unusual birds, located on the Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site.

Denver Field Ornithologists 2010 Membership Application

Please indicate:	☐ New Membership	☐ Renewal
<i>All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st.</i>		
☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00 ☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00 ☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00		
For those who wish to have the field trip reports mailed to them, rather than downloading from the DFO web site, please add an additional \$10 to your regular membership.		
☐ Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund \$_____		
<i>DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation.</i>		
I would like to lead a bird watching field trip Yes ☐ No ☐		
Address		
City	State	Zip Telephone
Electronic Lark Bunting Email address:		

Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE APRIL 2010

Tuesday Birders

SPECIES	TUESDAY BIRDERS		
DATE	6	13	
LOCATION	DEN	CHA	TOTAL
Canada Goose	50	7	57
Wood Duck	4	1	5
Gadwall	9		9
Mallard	22	10	32
Ring-necked Duck	1		1
Western Grebe		1	1
American White Pelican		6	6
Double-crested Cormorant		2	2
Great Blue Heron	2	1	3
Turkey Vulture	1	2	3
Osprey		1	1
Bald Eagle		1	1
Cooper's Hawk		1	1
Swainson's Hawk	1		1
Red-tailed Hawk	2	1	3
American Kestrel	2	2	4
American Coot		17	17
Killdeer	3	4	7
Greater Yellowlegs		2	2
Franklin's Gull	51		51
Ring-billed Gull		3	3
Rock Pigeon	3		3
Great Horned Owl	1	3	4
Belted Kingfisher		3	3
Downy Woodpecker		2	2
Northern Flicker	4	6	10
Say's Phoebe	1		1
Black-billed Magpie	16	13	29
American Crow	7	3	10
Common Raven		2	2
Tree Swallow		6	6
Bank Swallow		2	2
Black-capped Chickadee	3	2	5
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	2	4
American Robin	10	4	14
European Starling	9	22	31
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1		1
Song Sparrow	1	2	3
Dark-eyed Junco	7		7
Red-winged Blackbird	17	6	23
Western Meadowlark	8	6	14
Common Grackle	1		1
House Finch		1	1
House Sparrow	1		1
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	240	147	
TOTAL SPECIES	29	34	

Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield (DEN)

Chatfield State Park (CHA)

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE APRIL 2010 - DFO

SPECIES	DFO FIELD TRIPS										
DATE	3	10	11	10-11	17	18	24	25	29		
LOCATION	CHE	PON	SOU	WRA	BAR	DIN	ROC	MCC	CHI	TOTAL	
Canada Goose	8				30		8	12		58	
Wood Duck					7					7	
Gadwall	2				150		50	6		208	
American Wigeon	2				30					32	
Mallard	9	17	2		50		30	14		122	
Blue-winged Teal					10		16	2		28	
Cinnamon Teal	2				20		1			23	
Northern Shoveler				2	100		50	4		156	
Green-winged Teal	23				10		3			36	
Redhead					2		2			4	
Ring-necked Duck				3	2		6			11	
Greater Scaup							2			2	
Lesser Scaup	7				70		10	10		97	
Bufflehead					15		30	16		61	
Hooded Merganser				2						2	
Ruddy Duck	2				4		59			65	
Ring-necked Pheasant					3			1		4	
Greater Prairie-Chicken				51						51	
Wild Turkey				8						8	
Northern Bobwhite				30						30	
Pied-billed Grebe					3		1			4	
Horned Grebe	1				2		1			4	
Eared Grebe	2						1	2		5	
Western Grebe	16				30		1	5		52	
Clark's Grebe	1				1			1		3	
American White Pelican	40				15					55	
Double-crested Cormorant	7			1	100		1	4		113	
Great Blue Heron					8		1	3		12	
White-faced Ibis								9		9	
Turkey Vulture		1	8	2						11	
Osprey	1				1		2			4	
Bald Eagle	1				3		1			5	
Northern Harrier	1				2		2			5	
Cooper's Hawk		2								2	
Accipiter sp.								2		2	
Swainson's Hawk				1	21		4	1		27	
Red-tailed Hawk	2	3			9		12	4		30	
Ferruginous Hawk				1	1		1			3	
Buteo sp.					3					3	
American Kestrel				1	4		4	1		10	
American Coot	102			4	50		50	10		216	
Semipalmated Plover							1			1	
Killdeer	2			1	20		4	3		30	
American Avocet					2		8			10	
Solitary Sandpiper					1					1	
Greater Yellowlegs					1		1			2	

Willet							1			1
Western Sandpiper							1			1
Baird's Sandpiper							1			1
Wilson's Snipe					4					4
Franklin's Gull					2					2
Ring-billed Gull	2	12			3			12		29
California Gull	4									4
Herring Gull	6									6
Thayer's Gull	1									1
Rock Pigeon		2			15			6		23
Eurasian Collared-Dove		2			10		1	2		15
Mourning Dove	2	2		4	20		12	9		49
Barn Owl				3						3
Great Horned Owl		3		2			3	3		11
Burrowing Owl				2						2
Broad-tailed Hummingbird										0
Hummingbird sp								1		1
Belted Kingfisher				1	1			2		4
Downy Woodpecker	2		1		12			1		16
Northern Flicker	1	5	2	2	5		3	12		30
Say's Phoebe							1	4		5
Loggerhead Shrike				2			1	1		4
Steller's Jay			6							6
Blue Jay		9			4		1	2		16
Black-billed Magpie	3	2	6		4		9	5		29
American Crow		2	5				1	2		10
Common Raven			1							1
Horned Lark				100	6		12			118
Tree Swallow	17				30		10	35		92
Northern Rough-winged Sw					1		1			2
Cliff Swallow					3		11			14
Barn Swallow					25		22	2		49
Black-capped Chickadee	2	1	5		6			12		26
Mountain Chickadee			4							4
Bushtit			3							3
Red-breasted Nuthatch			2							2
White-breasted Nuthatch			1	1	1		1			4
Pygmy Nuthatch		13	3							16
House Wren					4			2		6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			2							2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher								2		2
Western Bluebird		9								9
Townsend's Solitaire		1	3				1			5
American Robin	20	3	6		50		24	22		125
European Starling	5		8	10	200		60	5		288
American Pipit							7			7
Cedar Waxwing				30						30
Yellow-rumped Warbler			1					15		16
Western Tanager			1							1
Spotted Towhee			14		1			2		17
Chipping Sparrow					1			20		21
Vesper Sparrow				10			1	1		12

Song Sparrow	1		4		3			1		9
White-crowned Sparrow				7	10			9		26
Dark-eyed Junco			2		2					4
Red-winged Blackbird	10			12	300		30	13		365
Eastern Meadowlark				2						2
Western Meadowlark		1	4	26	30		6	5		72
Yellow-headed Blackbird					25					25
Brewer's Blackbird				5			10			15
Common Grackle		1	4		200		1	12		218
Great-tailed Grackle				6	25					31
Brown-headed Cowbird				12	8		1	7		28
House Finch		2	4	10	1		3	2		22
American Goldfinch	2	3	1		10			12		28
House Sparrow				20	15					35
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	309	96	103	374	1817	0	599	351	0	
TOTAL SPECIES	35	22	29	34	69	0	60	52	0	

Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)

Ponderosa Pine Reserve, Aurora (PON)

South Mesa Trail (SOU)

Wray (WRA)

Barr Lake State Park (BAR)

Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch (DIN)

Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWF (ROC)

McCabe Meadows Park-formerly Parker Regional Park (MCC)



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

MAY 2010

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 45, Number 5

A Refresher Course on Calls and Songs of Avian Spring Migrants Nathan Pieplow -- Monday, April 26, 2010

What ARE bird songs and how do they differ from bird calls?

According to Frank B. Gill (1990) bird's vocalizations allow them to "mediate social interactions, particularly over long distances, at night, and in dense cover." Clicks and clacks, chips, cheeps, buzzes, squawks, trills and peeps enable DFO members to tune in to the daily activities of our avian neighbors. It is often said that the best birders have the best trained ears.

Some bird species have only one identifiable song. Some of the mimics such as the northern mockingbird have hundreds of songs. Some birds such as the wood thrush can control both sides of their trachea independently and thus can sing two songs at the same time. Similar abilities have been discovered in grebes, bitterns, ducks, sandpipers, and various other songbirds. In October of 2007 Ted Floyd told us about a small, cryptically colored Asian species in which the male and female sing one song simultaneously with each contributing only 50% of the notes.

In 1956 P. Marler studied the vocalizations of Europe's common chaffinch and identified



Continued on page 3

May Field Trips



Saturday, May 1 *Roxborough State Park*

Leader: Alison Kondler, 303-904-9140. Meet leader at the Visitor Center at 8am. Trip will go to 12:00 pm. One of the more difficult aspects of birding is learning bird sounds. Luckily you don't have to rely on just your auditory memory to "tune-in" to the songs and calls of birds. This 4 hour program will teach you how to hear with your eyes. Fun techniques including, ways to observe the bird, visual clues, diagnostic sounds, creative mnemonics, comparative ideas and personalizing your interpretation. We'll start indoors with a fantastic presentation, then head outdoors to listen and observe the birds on an easy 2 mile walk. Novice to expert birders welcome! For more information, call Alison Kondler at 303-904-9140. Must call 303-973-3959 to make a reservation. Space is Limited. No fee but CO Parks Pass / Day Pass required.

Sunday, May 2

Dawson Butte and Columbine Open Spaces, Douglas County

Leader: Doris Cruze, 303-798-8072. Meet leader at 0730 at the McDonald's near Castle Rock. From I-25 South, exit at Wilcox St and turn right. Go four blocks west to the McDonald's. Trip will explore new open spaces in Douglas County and does include marshland on the east side. Trip will finish about 2 pm so bring lunch, water and dress for the weather.

Continued on next page

Calls and Songs, continued

the following: songs and subsongs, along with flight, social, injury, aggression, alarm, and courtship calls. In 1954 L. de Kiriline listened to a red-eyed vireo which sang 22,197 songs in a ten hour period. (Does one question the sanity of the ornithologist?)

For months DFO members have been listening to the conversations of Colorado's winter residents from a skein of Canada geese passing overhead, to the neighborhood flock of bushtits in the leafless lilac bushes, to the black-capped chickadees and dark-eyed juncos at the feeder. In recent days however, a few tentative spring songs have been heard in the urban forest. A few mourning doves have been around all winter, but now some secret signal from nature seems to have awakened their biological clocks causing them to announce the early beginnings of spring with their soft, distinctive cooing calls.

Have you grown weary of the winter vocalizations of our feathered friends? Do you long for the distant call of migrating sandhill cranes, for Roxborough ovenbirds calling from oak thickets, for the melodious notes of a Red Rocks Park canyon wren echoing off the red sandstone formations, or the magic sound of a MacGillivray's warbler emanating from a creekside willow carr? If so, then you are primed to spend an evening with Nathan who will discuss and play recordings of the songs of common spring migrants, providing a timely refresher course on the sounds of spring in Colorado, with an emphasis on telling bird sounds apart by using patterns. The presentation should give members some new ideas about what to focus on when listening to birds. Nathan will also touch on some questions of high-frequency hearing loss and how it affects birders.

Nathan Pieplow is an avid bird sound recordist, the esteemed editor of the quarterly journal *Colorado Birds*, and an author of the *Colorado Birding Trail*. His blog which is found at Earbirding.com, is dedicated to recording, identifying, and interpreting bird sounds. He teaches writing and rhetoric at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert Phone Line Funding Established

Thanks to the generosity of DFO members over the years, the DFO Board has established a permanent source of funding to pay for the Rare Bird Alert phone line.

\$6,000 has been set aside in an interest bearing account. As the economy picks back up to full speed, the fund should be self-sustaining. Each year, we will pay our Rare Bird Alert partner, the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, for the annual use of the phone line from this account.

We should be able to fund the phone line for at least twenty years. If the economy continues to pick up and does not crash in the next twenty years, we will likely be able to pay for the phone line out of this fund for a much longer period of time. My suspicion is that the fund may out last telephone technology.

The DFO will no longer except contributions for the Rare Bird Alert, but please consider expanding your contribution to our birding conservation and education fund and/or to other bird conservation efforts.

Also, the Rare Bird Alert would not be possible without the enormous volunteer contribution of Joyce Takamine and those who back her up (Allison Hilf, Dick Schottler and Ira Sanders). Those who would like to learn to provide volunteer support for the Rare Bird Alert, please feel free to call Charles Thornton-Kolbe at 303-777-7588. A contribution of at least twenty hours per year would be much appreciated.

May Field Trips, continued

May 8 and 9 29th Annual Spring Bird Count - 2010

Everyone welcome – just show up. More eyes spot more birds. No fee, no pre-registration.

Saturday, May 8

Chatfield State Park Leader, Joey Kellner, 303-978-1748. Meet at 0600 at West (Deer Creek) entrance to park. State Parks Pass required.

Waterton, downstream Leader: Hugh Kingery, 303-814-2723. Meet at 0600 at Audubon Center/Discovery Pavilion (left turn immediately after turning from Wadsworth (Colo. 121) onto Waterton/Roxborough road (4.4 miles south of C470) and before the DOW parking lot for Waterton Canyon) 4-5 mile hike. Wear long pants (not shorts) due to bare-leg-unfriendly plants such as poison ivy, thistles, and knapweed.

Barr Lake State Park Leader: Dick Schottler, 303-278-8035 Call leader if you plan to go. Meet at 0600 at Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. Exit I-76 at Bromley Lane; go east about ¼ mile and turn right (south) on Lark Bunting Lane, to end of road. This is a ten-mile, all-day hike around the lake. State Parks pass required.

Barr Lake periphery Leader: Jackie King, 303-287-1644. Meet at 0730 on access road to entrance station at Barr Lake State Park. This trip does not involve much walking -- good for people with limited mobility or stamina.

Cherokee Ranch Leader: Lynn Willcockson, 303-757-7000 Call leader for details.

Lower Bear Creek Leader: Mike Henwood (303-716-8551, cell 720-840-5070) <hawkhen@aol.com.

New meeting place: Meet at 0600 at parking lot on Morrison Road at C470, northwest corner, next to the Conoco station.

Sunday, May 9

Castlewood Canyon State Park Leader: Randy Lentz, 303-680-3381. Meet at 0630 at old entrance. From CO 86, 0.5 miles west of Franktown, turn south on Castlewood Canyon Road, go two miles to old entrance. State Parks pass required.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal Leader: Urling Kingery, 303-814-2723. *Trip full*

Monday, May 10

Cherry Creek Reservoir Leader: Bob Brown (303-791-6204). Meet at 0630 at the Marina on west side (near Cherry Creek High School) in Cherry Creek State Park. State Parks pass required.

Fri, May 14 to Sun, May 16 *Bonnie State Park*

Leader: Bob Richter, 303-692-8529. Meet leader at the Foster's Campground at 1700, Friday night. Friday night the group will bird around the Foster's campground area. You can camp there or stay in a motel in Idalia or Burlington. You will need to bring all your meals. Trip will end at noon on Sunday. State Parks Pass is required.

Saturday, May 15 *Wheat Ridge Green Belt*

Leader: Jackie King, 303-287-1644. Meet at 7:30 at Prospect Park Lake near the permanent restrooms, south of West 44th Ave. just east of Robb St. This is an excellent area to see warblers as well as birds migrating thru the area. This will be a half day trip so bringing lunch is optional. Leader is using a scooter for mobility so this trip is accessible and will involve easy walking only. This is a good trip for novice birders and new members. Call leader if going.

Sunday, May 16 *No Trip Scheduled*

Continued on page 5

What's in a Name?

Picture a velvety black bird of 6" with a neon red lower back and under tail detailing and a thick blue tinged beak. He's known by two names, depending on where in Costa Rica he's seen – on the Caribbean side he's a Passerini's Tanager and in the Pacific lowlands he's known as a Cherries Tanager.



After a recent trip to Costa Rica with a Bill Turner group and seeing both species with their very different female counterparts, our group wondered who was Passerini and Cherrie and why are similar tanagers named after them?

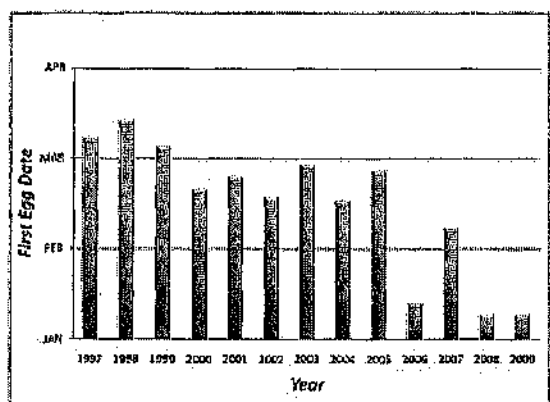
Professor Carlo(s) Passerini, an Italian entomologist (1793-1857) was the recipient of this bird's name after discovery by C.L. Bonaparte (see earlier "What's in a Name" article) Prof. Passerini's collection and papers now reside with the Natural History Museum of University of Pisa. His

other hobby, other than bugs and birds was scientific photography.

George Kruck Cherrie, a naturalist and ornithologist, was the Assistance Curator of Dept. of Ornithology of Field Museum in Chicago. He traveled with Teddy Roosevelt in 1913 to Brazil attempting to find a tributary to the Amazon. George and his wife Stella M. Cherrie traveled extensively in Columbia and Costa Rica amassing a large collection of birds. Mr. Cherrie's trip with Roosevelt included taking part in insurrections landing him in South American jails, more than once. Per Roosevelt, Mr. Cherrie was involved in gunrunning and ornithology aside from publishing "Ornithology Orinoco" in 1916 as well as "Adventures of a Naturalist" in 1930.

Happy Spring birding to all, Niña

Source: *Whose Bird*: Bo Beolens and Michael Watkins



From Cornell:

Based on NestWatch data from 1997 to 2009, the chart shown here for the Eastern Bluebird suggests that the **first eggs are being laid sooner**. More long-term data are needed to clarify the impacts of environmental change and human land use on breeding birds.

In addition to its scientific value, NestWatch is fun, free, and open to all. Participation is a great way for you to connect with nature. Kindergarten students in one New York classroom collected information about bluebirds nesting on school grounds. "This was so exciting for the children and for me too," their teacher Ruth Taylor wrote to us. "They named the male Skyboy and the female Bluebell. First we had two eggs and then four eggs in the nest. What a marvelous experience for all of us to enjoy and learn!"

The always-popular NestCams are also back in action. You can get a live peek into nests and nest boxes across the country. Live cameras for Barn Owls, Barred Owls, and Wood Ducks are online right now with Eastern Bluebirds and other species soon to follow at www.nestcams.org.

Everything you need to take part in NestWatch is available online at www.nestwatch.org, including directions on how you find nests, how to build and put up nest boxes, and how you monitor nests without disturbing the birds.

May Field Trips, continued

Thurs, May 20 - ?? *Southeast Colorado and Bent's Old Fort Bird Fair*

Trip starts on May 20 at 7 AM from Denver. **Must RSVP by email to charles@pibird.com by May 4, 2010.** Likely birding into SE Colorado and overnight stay on Thursday night. Continued birding at bird fair in Bent's Old Fort Area. Birders have option of birding through the morning on March 21 or over the weekend at the Bent's Old Fort Bird Fair. Leaders Charles Thornton-Kolbe and/or mostly John Drummond.

Saturday, May 22 *Rigli Ranch*

Leader: Joe Rigli, 970-768-7121

Meet leader at ranch by 0830. From Hudson, go east on CO 52 until it turns north. Don't turn north, but continue east on Morgan County road F to CR 14, then turn north for approximately one mile to first house on left by boxcars. Bring lunch and extra water.

Sunday, May 23 *McCabe Meadows Park (formerly Parker Regional Park)*

Leader: Steve Kennedy 303-815-9738. Meet at 0730 for ½ day trip. From Main Street intersection in Parker, take Highway 83 south for 1.2 miles. Turn right on Indian Pipe Lane to the parking lot on the right. (The park is on the west side of the road) Wear your walking shoes – we'll go rain or shine. We may look into Triple C Ranch's marsh and pond. Surprises could be in store of us!

Sat., May 29 to Mon., May 31 *Nebraska's Crescent Lake Refuge*

Leader: Chris Owens, 303-772-6048. Meet leader at Jim Hamm Park Nature Center – From I-25 take exit 240. Go west 4 miles on CO 119 to Boulder-Weld Co. Line Road, then 2 miles north to park on left at E. 17th Ave. at 0800 Saturday morning. Will drive to Nebraska and enjoy lots of great birding. You will need to bring three lunches and two breakfasts and plan to eat two dinners at restaurants. Call leader for hotel suggestions and carpooling arrangements. Trip will return to Jim Hamm by 1800, maybe earlier. This is a fabulous trip for shorebirds

Saturday, May 29 *Foothills Ovenbird Trip in Jefferson County*

Leader: Mike Henwood, 303-716-8551 or 720-840-5070 (cell). Meet leader at 7:00 a.m. at The Fort Restaurant - Highway 285 (Hampden Ave.) and Colorado Highway 8. Bring snacks, lunch and drinking water. Trip will finish sometime around 1:00 p.m. This will be a five to six mile trip, with lots of up and down terrain so you will need to be in good physical condition. This trip is strictly limited to the first eight people so you must contact the leader, Mike Henwood, at Hawkhen@aol.com to register and obtain details. Participants will enjoy the six mile hike through a variety of habitats while listening to singing birds at the top of their musical form. Will definitely see ovenbirds.

Sunday, May 30 *"Hot Spot" Gamble*

Leader: Tarnie Bulow, 303-877-1990. We will decide where we are going on the 24th of May, depending on what has been seen recently. The destination will be published on COBirds, and entered on the DFO website, or you can call leader. A meeting time and place will be stated, and we will plan on a full day.

Monday May 31 (Memorial Day) *88th and South Platte Trail*

Leader: Jackie King, 303-287-1644. Meet leader at 7:30 at the parking area at E. 88th and the South Platte River – From I-76 take E. 88th Ave. exit, go west on 88th for 1.6 miles then turn south at Colorado Blvd. Turn left again into the parking lot for the South Platte River Greenway Trailhead. Explore along the river on the bike path, which is paved and level. Bring lunch and drinking water.

Saturday, July 3 to Monday, July 5 *North Park – Joint Trip With BBC*

Leader: Chuck Lowrie, (303) 455-8417 Meet at Safeway parking lot on east side of U.S. 40 in Fraser at 0900 on Saturday morning. (Fraser is a 2 hour drive from Denver.) Make reservations for Saturday & Sunday nights in Walden at the North Park Inn, (970-723-4271), or the Chedsey Motel (970) 723-8201. A State Parks Pass and (if <65 Yrs.) a Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp are required. Call Leader if going and to arrange Carpooling. Bring water, snacks, lunches, insect repellent and clothing for variable weather. Chuck Lowrie lowrie2@mindspring.com

Safe Skies Colorado Update

ASGD's work to make conditions safer for migrating songbirds – Safe Skies Colorado, or SSC – has made some substantial strides in the past months. Board Member Joe Bartell, accompanied by Stefan Kazmierski from the Conservation Committee, met with author David Sibley (*The Sibley Guide to Birds*, *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America*, etc) in early October to talk about the downward trend in bird populations in North America and our attempts to reduce bird mortality by setting up "Safe Skies." Sibley was very supportive of ASGD's efforts and made several suggestions about reaching homeowners via birdseed retailers and the media. While Safe Skies at present focuses on a "lights out" policy for skyscrapers during spring and fall migration, Sibley urged that ASGD expand its work to include bird mortality due to daytime collisions with glass in windows and walls. He mentioned the use of window coatings that eliminate reflections and make glass visible to birds – most are still in the early stages of commercial development but could, if widely used, reduce bird mortality substantially.

Working with the Sierra Club, American Lung Association of Colorado, Xcel Energy, the Building Owners and Managers Association, National Jewish, Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper, Denver Field Ornithologists and the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, SSC has produced a flier stressing the benefits of the "lights out" program to birds and the global environment and arranged for its distribution. Contacts have been established with the Colorado Hotel Owners Association, which took some of the fliers for its trade fair. A "splash site" website has been set up, which will offer links to ASGD's site and eventually to FLAP (Fatal Light Awareness Program), a Toronto-based group that has promoted solutions to bird/glass collisions, and to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

What lies ahead: The Safe Skies committee has set its sights on a possible bill or joint resolution in the legislature, grants to fund development of displays and glass on the internet. Eventually we'd like to set up a display at the Audubon Nature Center and at other similar facilities in Colorado. If you'd like to work on the SSC committee, please contact Joe Bartell at 720-524-8622 or call the Audubon office at 303 973-9530. **By Joe Bartell, ASGD Board**

Common North American Shorebirds in Order of Size (Sizes are average lengths in inches for adult birds)

1	Long-billed Curlew	23.0"	25	Black Turnstone	9.3"
2	American Oystercatcher	18.5"	26	Mountain Plover	9.0"
3	American Avocet	18.0"	27	Pectoral Sandpiper	8.8"
4	Marbled Godwit	18.0"	28	Rock Sandpiper	8.5"
5	Whimbrel	17.5"	29	Purple Sandpiper	8.5"
6	Black Oystercatcher	17.0"	30	Curlew Sandpiper	8.5"
7	Hudsonian Godwit	15.5"	31	Dunlin	8.5"
8	Willet	15.5"	32	Solitary Sandpiper	8.3"
9	Black-necked Stilt	14.0"	33	Stilt Sandpiper	8.3"
10	Greater Yellowlegs	13.8"	34	Red Phalarope	8.3"
11	Upland Sandpiper	11.8"	35	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	8.3"
12	Long-billed Dowitcher	11.8"	36	Sanderling	8.0"
13	Black-bellied Plover	11.3"	37	Wilson's Plover	7.8"
14	Short-billed Dowitcher	11.3"	38	Spotted Sandpiper	7.5"
15	Common Snipe	11.0"	39	White-rumped Sandpiper	7.5"
16	American Woodcock	11.0"	40	Red-necked Phalarope	7.5"
17	Wandering Tattler	10.7"	41	Baird's Sandpiper	7.5"
18	American Golden-Plover	10.5"	42	Piping Plover	7.3"
19	Red Knot	10.5"	43	Semipalmated Plover	7.3"
20	Killdeer	10.5"	44	Western Sandpiper	6.5"
21	Lesser Yellowlegs	10.2"	45	Semipalmated Sandpiper	6.3"
22	Surfbird	10.0"	46	Snowy Plover	6.3"
23	Ruddy Turnstone	9.5"	47	Least Sandpiper	5.8"
24	Wilson's Phalarope	9.3"			

So Sayeth the Geeks...

If ever there was proof positive that birders are geeks, it was the packed museum auditorium on March 22 where 137 birders gawked enthusiastically at large screen real-time demonstrations of electronic birding tools presented enthusiastically by Ted Floyd, Nathan Pieplow, and Bill Schmoker.

We learned that eBirds is user-friendly and eternally available wherever there is internet access. We can keep our own individual lists, or access anybody else's list. When we are in Malheur NWR, Oregon, we can check to see what's been seen in the surrounding 50 miles. What timing! Just when our DFO bird leaders are beginning to use this tool.

We can use Google Earth and other tools to visualize topography and locate ourselves, our sightings and target birds. We can learn to bird by ear, hone our skills in the field by carrying sounds on our iPod or iPhone, and even hear or download recordings of bird songs, calls, or flight calls from a list of 6,538 species from all over the world. The nationally-recognized blog by speaker Nathan Pieplow (earbirding.com) is deep into the technology of recording and managing bird sounds, all of which leads to more basic science about how birds communicate.

We can download Sibley's or other bird guides onto our hand-held devices for ID or range purposes, but get the added benefit of tapping a button right next to the picture to hear the bird's songs.

Here is a list of sources for a lot of fun ahead. And just because I ran right out the next day and bought an iPhone and had Sibley's in it within the hour and eBirds marked as a Favorite website does NOT mean I'm a geek!

Carol Blackard.

<u>NAVIGATION</u>	<u>BIRDING AUDIO</u>
http://earth.google.com/	http://earbirding.com/blog
http://maps.google.com	http://macaulaylibrary.org
http://regex.info/exif.cgi	http://www.xeno-canto.org
http://www.granderossosoftware.com/GeoNumbers	http://blb.biosci.ohio-state.edu
http://hunter.pairsite.com/theodolite/	http://www.birds.cornell.edu/brp/raven/RavenOverview.html
<u>CHECKLISTING, CITIZEN SCIENCE</u>	http://www.birdjam.com
http://ebird.org	<u>GUIDEBOOK 2.0</u>
http://www.audubon.org/bird/citizen/	http://www.ibirdexplorer.com
http://www.coloradocountybirding.com	http://www.handheldbirds.com
http://www.getbirdseye.com	http://www.audubonguides.com
	http://wildtones.com/iPhones_Apps_and_Ringtones
	http://www.naturalguides.com/Raptors.html
	http://www.sibleyguides.com

Creative Ways to Learn Bird Sounds with Alison Kondler

One of the more difficult aspects of birding is learning bird sounds. Luckily you don't have to rely on just your auditory memory to "tune-in" to the songs and calls of birds. This four-hour program will teach you how to hear with your eyes. Fun techniques including, ways to observe the bird, visual clues, diagnostic sounds, creative mnemonics, comparative ideas and personalizing your interpretation. This class will start indoors with a fantastic presentation, then go outside to listen and observe the birds on an easy walk. Novice to expert birders welcome! For more information, call Alison Kondler at 303-904-9140. Must call pertaining number below to make a reservation.

Saturday April 17th at Roxborough State Park Visitor Center - 8am - 12:00pm - No fee - 8:00am to 12:00pm - Call 303-973-3959 for reservations. Space is Limited. CO Parks Pass / Day Pass needed.

Saturday May 1st at Roxborough State Park Visitor Center 8am - 12:00pm - DFO Trip - No fee - 8:00am to 12:00pm - Call 303-973-3959 for reservations. Space is Limited. CO Parks Pass / Day Pass needed.

Saturday June 26th at Roxborough State Park Visitor Center - 8am - 12:00pm - No fee - 8:00am to 12:00pm - Call 303-973-3959 for reservations. Space is Limited. CO Parks Pass / Day Pass needed.

Saturday July 24th O'Fallon Park - Kittredge, CO - Intensive sound study in the field. DFO Trip - No fee - 7:00am to 1:30pm - Field trip only. More information to come in the July 2010 *Lark Bunting*.

RMBO Seeks Award Nominations

The Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) is seeking nominations for its annual Rich Levad Award. The award honors the memory of Rich, who made outstanding contributions to Colorado ornithology throughout his career as a teacher and as a staff member of the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. Rich passed away in February of 2008.

The award recognizes persons who, like Rich in his incredibly productive lifetime, have provided distinguished service to the ornithological community, made scholarly contributions to the field of ornithology and/or have enthused others about conserving birds and their habitats through sharing their personal knowledge and experience. Award nomination forms can be found at www.rmbo.org. The deadline for submission of all nominations is June 30. The award will be presented at the RMBO annual membership picnic in Brighton, CO on August 28.

Nominations can be made by anyone and should highlight a nominee's contributions to ornithology, conservation, and/or their success in sharing their knowledge of birds with others.

Rich Levad taught English for more than 30 years at Central High School in Grand Junction and started working for RMBO after he retired from that position. He was a key player in starting RMBO's Monitoring Colorado's Birds program, which helped identify new breeding sites for such species as the Black Swift and Purple Martin, and he started Project Colony Watch, a volunteer-driven effort to gather data on 15 of Colorado's colonial waterbird species. His book on the Black Swift is due to be published in the near future. Rich was the first recipient of the award in his name, in 2006, after he had been diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

Here are other recipients:

2007 - Nelda Gamble (Former RMBO staff member)

2008 - Kim Potter (U.S. Forest Service biologist)

2009 - Mike Carter (Founder of the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory)

Thank you,

Jason Beason
Special Monitoring Projects Coordinator
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory

March Field Trip Summaries

Mar 4, Thursday *Canon City (CAN)*

Leader(s): Charles Thornton-Kolbe and Ira Sanders. **Observers:** Jennifer Hyypio, Mary Geder, Katy Mihm-Dunning, Bob Spencer, Tamie Bulow, Patty Echelmeyer, Bonnie Mulvany. **Time:** 0800-1345. **Weather:** Sunny and unseasonably warm, 40-50°F. **Totals:** 44 species, 733 individuals.

Mar 6, Saturday *Loveland Area (LOV)*

Cancelled due to inclement weather.

Mar 7, Sunday *Walden Ponds (WAL)*

Report not available at time of printing.

Mar 13, Saturday *Golden Gate State Park (GOL)*

Leader(s): Mike Serruto and Nina Routh. **Observers:** Meredith Anderson, Anne and Jim Barnes, Pat Hella, Barbara Hoover, Buzz Schaumburg, Tim Smart, Ashley Thompson. **Time:** 0800-1530. **Distance:** 48 miles by car, 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, mixed conifers, ponderosa, elevation 8000'. **Weather:** Sunny, 45°F. **Totals:** 23 species, 144 individuals.

Mar 14, Sunday *Barr Lake State Park (BAR)*

Leader(s): Tim Smart. **Observers:** Meredith Anderson, Jean Stevenson, Toni Rautus, Kiki Widjaja, Jason Kine, Ginny Bergstrom, Dick Prickett, Patty Echelmeyer, Chuck Walters, Gwen Kelardis, Tom Bunker, Jean Eddin. **Time:** 0845-1445. **Distance:** 25 miles by car, 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Field, lake, farmland. **Weather:** Cloudy, 27-44°F, east-north wind, 3-18mph. **Totals:** 39 species, 833 individuals.

Mar 20, Saturday *Boulder's High Country (BOU)*

Leader(s): Bill Schmoker. **Observers:** Tim Smart, Michael King, Diana King, Edie Israel, Ed Furlong, John Tumasonis, Debbie Seiden, Dave Alcock. **Time:** 0830-1330. **Distance:** 5 miles. **Weather:** Pleasant day with a foot of fresh snow, sunny by windy and cold, 7°F, up to 25mph winds. **Totals:** 3 species, 28 individuals.

Mar 21, Sunday *Pueblo Area (PUE)*

Leader(s): Paul Slingsby. **Observers:** Toni Rautus, Nina Routh, Meredith Anderson, Tim Smart, Patty Echelmeyer, Dick Prickett, Derek Hankins. **Time:** 0730-1630. **Distance:** 20 miles by car. **Habitat:** City park, river walk, ponds, reservoir. **Totals:** 61 species, 583 individuals.

Mar 27, Saturday *Bear Creek Lake Park and Red Rocks Park (BEA)*

Leader(s): Mike Henwood. **Observers:** Nathan Berry, Georgia Hart, Cyndy Johnson, Lois Levinson, Dick Prickett, Nina Routh, Tim Smart, Karen vonSaltza, Kiki Widjaja. **Time:** 0800-1300. **Distance:** 19 miles by car, 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Rocks/cliffs, feeder, riparian, lake. **Weather:** Unsettled spring weather, 30s-40s°F, north to south wind, 15-20mph. **Totals:** 43 species, 716 individuals.

Mar 28, Sunday *Fountain Creek Regional Park (FOU)*

Leader(s): Sue Schulman. **Observers:** Tom Bunker, Patty Echelmeyer, Nelson Ford, Jackie Heyda, Ed Holub, Mary Keithler, Kiki Widjaja. **Time:** 0730-1430. **Distance:** 155 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Reservoir, riparian, scrub oak, elevation 6000-7000'. **Weather:** Sunny, 52°F. **Totals:** 54 species, 656 individuals.

Tuesday Birders

Mar 2 *Old Stone House (OLD)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 44 (two groups). **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, cottonwood willow, meadows, elevation 5300'. **Weather:** Clear, sunny, 37-53°F, southeast wind, 0-7mph. **Totals:** 27 species, 369 individuals.

Mar 9 *Bear Creek Lake Park (BEA)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 38. **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 10 miles by car, 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Reservoir, riparian, cottonwood, willow, cattails, open fields, elevation 5800'. **Weather:** Sunny to partly cloudy, 45-51°F, east wind, 0-5mph. **Totals:** 24 species, 505 individuals.

Mar 16 *Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)*

Observers: 38. **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 11¼ miles by car. **Habitat:** Lake riparian/cottonwood, wetlands, grasslands. **Weather:** Sunny, 43-54°F, variable wind, 0-5mph. **Totals:** 36 species, 502 individuals.

Mar 23 *Belmar Historic Park (BEL)*

Observers: 40. **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, grassland, wetland, man-made ponds. **Weather:** Sunny to cloudy, 42-45°F, northeast wind, 0-5mph. **Totals:** 31 species, 514 individuals.

Mar 30 *Barr Lake State Park (BAR)*

Observers: 41. **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lake, prairie, reservoir, riparian, cottonwood, willow, cattails, agriculture. **Weather:** Sunny, 60-75°F, southeast wind, 0-7mph. **Totals:** 41 species, 409 individuals.

News about the Ornithology Program at the DMNS

By Paula Cushing, Department Chair of Zoology

The ornithology collection at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science includes approximately 52,000 objects and represents one of the largest and most important collections in the Rocky Mountain Region. As you already know, it has a long and storied history with specimens dating back to the 1870s. Since 2006, with Collections Manager Jeff Stephenson and Curator of Vertebrate Zoology, Dr. John Demboski joining the Zoology Department, growth and activity in the ornithology collection has steadily increased. To keep pace with this growth, it is our great pleasure to announce an exciting addition to the DMNS ornithology program: **the establishment of the Ornithology Fellowship.**

As a result of a generous donation from Jack Ferguson, a Trustee Emeritus of the Museum, the Department of Zoology has established a part time position for an Ornithology Fellow. This Fellow will assist in all aspects of the curation of the ornithology collection and assist in outreach programs, such as "behind the scenes" tours of the collection, talks for birding organizations, and programs about birds.

The funding we have allows us to maintain the Fellowship through the end of 2010. But, we have also been challenged by Mr. Ferguson. If we are able to raise at least \$10,000 in additional funds, Jack will match us dollar for dollar. Thus, every dollar we are able to raise towards maintaining this position will be matched, up to \$10,000. If we are able to realize the full match, the Museum will be able to extend the Ornithology Fellowship from 1 year to a total of 3 years!

This is an exciting fundraising opportunity for the Department of Zoology. We hope you will join us in participating in this fundraising challenge. Please contact Paula Cushing, Department Chair of Zoology at (303) 370-6442 or Paula.Cushing@dmns.org. Checks should be made out to the Department of Zoology. Please be sure to designate the gift as in support of the Ornithology Fellow.

Alternately, you can send your tax deductible contribution directly to Paula Cushing, Ph.D.
Department of Zoology
Denver Museum of Nature & Science
2001 Colorado Blvd.
Denver, CO 80205

This year's Ornithology Fellow is Sarah Manor. Sarah received her Bachelor's Degree from Ohio Wesleyan University in 2007. Immediately prior to being hired by the DMNS, she worked as a volunteer bird preparator for our department. She also worked as a Museum Technician in the USGS collection at the Museum of Southwestern Biology in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In addition, she worked as a wetlands biologist and data technician at the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, a student curator at the W.D. Stull Zoology Museum at Ohio Wesleyan University, and an intern at the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. As you can see, she is ideally suited for this exciting new position. Join us in welcoming Sarah, she works on Wednesdays and Thursdays and can be reached at Sarah.Manor@dmns.org.

Welcome New Members!

Angela Barnes, 77 S Adams #704, Denver, CO 80209, 303.325.7882
Caroline Burr, 8343 West Fork Rd, Boulder, CO 80302
Sharon Fox & Stan Rickard, 6356 S Glencoe Ct, Centennial, CO 80121-3535, 303.267.0712
Eileen Holcomb, 3535 W 39th Ave, Denver CO 80211,
Yvonne Parrott, 336 Osceola St, Denver CO 80219, 303.935.5769
Linda Powers & Jim Masur, 480 S Marion Pkwy #105A, Denver, CO 80209, 970.901.9737

We Love Birds Photo Contest

For release: March 29, 2010

New York, NY & Ithaca, NY--The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology today announced the launch of the WeLoveBirds.org photo contest. Anyone can join this free interactive online community and submit one original photograph of a wild bird for the contest. Site members will vote for their favorite photographs. The winning photos will be announced and featured on Earth Day, April 22.

WeLoveBirds.org offers an open social network of people who are passionate about birds; access to information on birds and birding from a leading ornithology lab; and an opportunity to make a positive difference for birds and their habitats. WeLoveBirds.org members can already submit photographs to the site, along with videos, comments, discussions, and blog posts.

"WeLoveBirds.org members are amazing bird photographers," said Susan Casey-Lefkowitz, NRDC senior attorney. "WeLoveBirds.org already showcases over 3,000 photographs that have been posted by its members."

"WeLoveBirds.org is a place where birders from across the world are connecting with one another," said Miyoko Chu, director of Communications at the Cornell Lab. "Photographs are a vibrant way to make these connections as people share their favorite photos and decide the winners."

The site represents a first partnership between NRDC and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, nationally recognized conservation organizations that will offer NRDC's expertise in policy and advocacy and the Cornell Lab's authoritative bird research, online birding resources, and citizen-science programs.



*Signature Great Horned Owl by
Lyle Madeson, from WeLove-
Birds.org photo gallery*

For contest rules and information, go to: <http://www.welovebirds.org/page/photo-contest>

March Additional Reports

Species	Date	Number	Location	County	Observers & comments
Mountain Bluebird	3/1/2010	8	Franktown	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Mountain Bluebird	3/7/2010	1	Daniels Park	Douglas	Jim Wilson
N. Saw-whet Owl	3/10/2010	1	Franktown	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Long-eared Owl	Mar. 13-17	1	Franktown	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Goose, greater white-fronted	3/13/2010	30	Jumbo Reservoir	Logan, Sedgwick	Amy Kellner, Joey Kellner
Goose, snow	3/13/2010	30000 (~30)	Jumbo Reservoir	Logan, Sedgwick	Amy Kellner, Joey Kellner
Western Bluebird	3/18/2010	6	Franktown	Douglas	Urling & Hugh Kingery
Sparrow, sage	3/19/2010	1	Chatfield Reservoir	Jefferson	Joey Kellner, Glenn Walbek
White-throated Swift	3/30/2010		Castlewood Canyon St. Park	Douglas	Karen Metz
Turkey Vulture	3/30/2010		Castlewood Canyon St. Park	Douglas	Karen Metz
Evening Grosbeak	daily from Dec. 14 on 3/7		Castle Rock	Douglas	Kirk Huffstater
Please send additional reports to veronicaholt@Q.com					

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

PRESIDENT

Charles Thornton-Kolbe, 2284 S Josephine Street, Denver CO 80210, 303.777.7588
Charles@pibird.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Lynn Willcockson, 2698 S Niagara, Denver CO 80224 303.757.7000
lynnliz2698@aol.com

TREASURER

Bob Shade, 9353 W Nevada Place, Lakewood CO 80226-3029, 303.975.2476
WRSHADE3@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Sue Schulman, 6024 E Briarwood Drive, Centennial CO 80112-1030, 303.773.3540
suemschulman@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

Rick and Connie Steinkamp (12)
ricconcal@comcast.net
John Drummond (12)
jxdrummo@aol.com
Carol Blackard (11)
carol-blackard@comcast.net
Ira Sanders (11) greatauk@msn.com
Niña Routh (10) nrouth@copper.net
Chris Blakeslee (10) chrisabla@aol.com

Membership Chair and Past President

Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742 303.771.3431
mcburger3@juno.com

HISTORIAN

Warren Finch, 303.233.3372

FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS

Patty Echelmeyer, 303.233.4947,
Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct
Jackie King, 303.287.1644,
Feb, May, Aug, Nov
Meredith Anderson, 303.280.8576
Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec

Lark Bunting Editor/Webmaster

Veronica Holt, 303.646.3829
veronicaholt@Q.com

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Dick Kolbe, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, trip reports from the previous month, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome and openly solicited. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80232, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net.

Additional Reports

Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 1221 E Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128 dacbcCook@comcast.net.

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcCook@comcast.net.

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson meander303@mac.com

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303-771-1421, email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is back-up contact person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email d_hill@comcast.net.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Rare Bird Alert: With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sightings of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists](http://ColoradoFieldOrnithologists.org) Web Site.

Denver Field Ornithologists 2010 Membership Application

Please
indicate:

☐ New Membership

☐ Renewal

***All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year
if paid after October 1st.***

- ☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00
- ☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00
- ☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

For those who wish to have the field trip reports mailed to them, rather than downloading from the DFO web site, please add an additional \$10 to your regular membership.

☐ Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund \$_____

DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation.

I would like to lead a bird watching field trip Yes ☐ No ☐

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Electronic Lark Bunting Email address:

Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

JUNE 2010

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 45, Number 6



June Field Trips

Friday, June 4 thru Sunday, June 6 Bonny Lake State Park

Leader: Tim Smart, (303)439-9627 smrr@juno.com. Meet Smart at 5 pm the McDonald's on Airport Road just north of the I-70 exit (just east of the Peña Blvd. exit). Or meet at 1000 at Foster's Grove Campground, US 385 to CR3 into the Park (Fee area or Parks Pass Requires).

We'll stay at the bunkhouse at the park; there are kitchen facilities and a barbecue grill. Bring food for all meals, a sleeping bag and pillow. We'll look for lake and riparian birds as well as prairie specialties and eastern species that appear here (Bell's Vireo, Baltimore Oriole, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Northern Cardinal). Bring a scope and radio if you have one. Sunscreen and insect repellent recommended. Please notify Leader if you plan to attend as the trip is space-limited.

Saturday, June 5

Rocky Mountain Arsenal

Leader: Dave Rhoades, (303)424-8633. Meet Rhoades at 0800 at the Visitors' Center for a special opportunity to bird one of Denver's premier birding sites. Lunch optional; trip will wrap by 1 pm. You must notify Dave if you plan to attend as this trip is space-limited.

Wednesday June 9 – 10

San Luis Valley

Group leadership will be shared with Charles Thornton-Kolbe and John Stump, a local Alamosa birder. This trip will leave early on June 9 and head to the San Luis Valley for about 30 hours of bird watching. We will spend the night of June 9 as a group at a local hotel costing about \$60 per person (in a room shared with one other person) with some less expensive camping like options (at \$22 per night for tents). Camping cabins are available for \$25 per person (shared accommodations).

All RSVPs must be received by May 24 to charles@pibird.com. Early RSVPs are a must to secure local accommodations. Please do not contact me after May 24 (as it will be too late to change trip plans). Please indicate in the RSVP your full name, your cell phone number, your home phone number, and your email address. You must indicate your lodging preference (including married couple, prefer a single room at about \$112, or prefer a shared room at \$60 per person. Please also indicate if you are willing to drive and the type of vehicle you have. This will be a first come and first serve trip with the first 10 persons able to join the trip. Early RSVPs are a good idea, because this trip will fill quickly and lodging is often difficult to secure. Other costs include meals of your choice (from \$60 to \$80), \$15.00 to \$20 for other trip expenses, and about \$60 to \$80 for gasoline.

Saturday, June 12

Lyons Area

Leader: Raymond Davis, (303)823-5332. Meet Davis at 0830 at the Lyons Park 'n Ride, half block west of the stoplight in town. Enjoy an easy walk along Old South Road looking for foothills specialties (flycatchers, vireos, raptors), explore nearby fields in search of Bobolink and bring a lunch to enjoy from the Davis's back deck - hummingbirds, nuthatches, chickadees and jays are sure to be at the feeders, and bluebirds and swallows in the open space beyond. A good trip for those with accessibility issues, and an enjoyable experience well worth the drive!

Continued on next page

June Field Trips, continued

Sunday, June 13

Bailey Nesting Area, Silverthorne

Leaders: Allison Hilf, (303)888-5110 and Tim Smart. Meet Leaders at 0800 at the Ward Road Park 'n Ride off I-70 for carpooling to Summit County. Hike through coniferous woods and riparian meadows in search of kinglets, woodpeckers, sparrows, nuthatches, grosbeaks and warblers, and check the water treatment plant and fields for Osprey and bluebirds. Bring lunch and dress for variable weather. Trip will wrap in time for a late afternoon return to Denver.

Saturday, June 19

Peak-to-Peak Highway

Leader: Christian Nunes, (401)787-0194 pajaroboy@hotmail.com. Join Christian for a mid-summer journey along the Peak-to-Peak Highway. We will meet at 0600 at the Boulder County Courts parking lot at Canyon Blvd and 6th St. in Boulder to form carpools before heading up Boulder Canyon. We'll make stops along the highway in various habitats looking for species like Fox Sparrow, Hammond's and Dusky Flycatchers, Sapsuckers, American Three-toed Woodpeckers, Gray Jay, Pine Grosbeak, etc. Bring lunch, water, a radio if you have one. Contact Christian with questions or to let him know you're going.

Sunday, June 20

Lair o' the Bear Park

Leader: Niña Routh, (303)987-8687.

Meet Leader at 0830 at the Lair o' the Bear Park entrance: from C-470 take the Morrison Road exit and drive west about 4 miles on Colorado 74, past Idledale, to the parking lot at the entrance on the left. Spend the morning hiking in search of foothills specialties, and wind down with a nice lunch at a restaurant in Kittredge. Please call Niña if you plan to participate.

Saturday, June 26

Weld County Wanderings

Leader: Norm Erthal, (303)917-2596. Meet Erthal at 0700 at the DOW office at 60th and Broadway: take the 58th Ave. exit from I-25 west a short distance to Broadway and north two blocks to the DOW parking lot on the right. We'll consolidate into fewer cars and head out to the plains and reservoirs of Weld County in search of shorebirds, raptors, passerines and grassland species. Full day trip; bring lunch and water, a scope if you have one, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Notify Leader if you plan to attend.

Sunday, June 27

Rocky Mountain National Park

Leader: Chris Owens, (303)772-6048. Meet Owens at 0700 at the Beaver Meadows entrance at the Visitors' Center parking lot. Join Chris in exploring the Park's scenic meadows and riparian woodlands for Vireos, nuthatches, flycatchers, warblers, sparrows, swallows and kinglets. We always manage to find at least one surprise bird on this trip! Half-day; bring water and snacks. Fee area.

Scheduled by Meredith Anderson



Hey, Bird Watching Dudes!

June 11, 12, 13

Enjoy a weekend of laid-back birding in the high country at Drousy Water Ranch near Granby. Patty Echelmeyer's family and their full staff of young people welcome you to this "Unofficial DFO Experience" before their week-long guests arrive for their summer season.

Two nights six meals, (Friday dinner through packed lunch on Sunday) \$145 plus tax and tip per person.

Although this is a birding-focused trip, you will be at a dude ranch, and if you so desire, horse-backed riding can be arranged for additional charges. Contact Patty Echelmeyer as soon as possible at 303.233.4947.

What's in a Name?



Oh **Say** can you see...have you seen any Say's phoebes yet this spring? Thomas Say is a man after Dave Leatherman's heart. His primary interest was entomology with zoology and being a naturalist secondary. I'd bet Dave could show him a thing or two about damsel flies! But I digress. Mr. Say's skills helped him describe over 1,000 new species of beetles and over 400 new insects of other orders. An American, Mr. Say was born in 1787, living in the utopian village of "New Harmony" until his death in 1843.

As part of his resume notes, Tom was appointed Chief Zoologist to travel with Major S.H. Long's expeditions, which included explorations of the Rocky Mountains. Long's Peak? Along with his dis-

covery of the Phoebe, he discovered many new species including Long-billed Dowitcher, Blue Grouse, Swift Fox (ok, not a bird), Western Kingbird, Rock Wren and the Band Tailed Pigeon.

We can also thank him for the discovery of the Lesser Goldfinch, Lark Sparrow, Lazuli Bunting and Orange Crowned Warbler. When he wasn't discovering new species, Tom authored *American Entomology in 1824*, amongst other entomology books which followed. His friend L. Bonaparte (see past articles) named the Phoebe after Thomas Say.

Happy Spring birding to all, Niña

Additional Reports

Species: Northern Saw-whet Owl: April 10-April 16

Number: 1

Location: Genesee

County: Jefferson

Observer/Comment: Kathanne Lynch. Heard calling three different nights. In the 20 years I've lived on Genesee Mountain, this is the first NSWO I've heard here.

This was the only report received this month—hopefully we will have a more complete list next month. Please send additional reports to veronicaholt@Q.com.



The Denver Museum of Nature and Science—Digitizing DFO's History!

Have you ever had an unanswered question about DFO's history? Have you ever wondered how much Cherry Creek State Park's avian populations have changed over the last forty years? Have you ever asked how much DFO's dues were in June of 1978 (\$5.00/year for a family; \$2.50 for a student), or who the "head honchos" were at that time (President Carol Hack and Vice President Patricia Echelmeyer)?

DFO is in the enviable position of having a dedicated and knowledgeable historian in the person of Warren Finch. For years Warren has worked tirelessly to collect and archive the records of DFO and its activities. His work goes back to the formation of the Denver Field Ornithologists in 1968, and all the way back to the early years of the Colorado Bird Club in the 1930s. His work covers over 75 years of history. He has a complete set of Lark Buntings, trip lists, by-laws, and Ruth Wheeler's one-of-a-kind scrap books documenting the groups' early years which have to be the diamonds in Warren's DFO collection.

DFO also has a special friend and ally in Kris Haglund, the head archivist for the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Kris does wonderful work preserving the Museum's history and over the years she has also collected a broad spectrum of DFO records. Kathie Gully, DMNS librarian, keeps a collection of Lark Buntings in the Museum's A. M. Bailey Library too.

As of April, 2010, much has been accomplished!

Last fall Warren Finch approached the DFO with ideas for permanently preserving DFO's records. In October of 2009 Warren, Mary Cay Burger, Kay Niyo, and Chris Blakeslee met with Kris Haglund and John Demboski, Curator of Vertebrate Zoology at the Museum, to discuss the sharing, preservation, and digitization of DFO's records. After much brainstorming a set of goals were enumerated, a direction was set, and questions to research were posed.

Kris has one excellent volunteer who has already begun the process of carefully digitizing DFO's oldest newsletters and documents. Further she is working on finding an additional person to train to assist in the laborious process of turning paper records into usable computer files. If any DFO member would be interesting in training and volunteering to work on this project, feel free to call Kris (303-370-8353) at the Museum and discuss it with her.

One important decision made was to digitize each issue of the Lark Bunting in its entirety, rather than simply the birding records represented by the field trip lists. This preserves the group's total history (who, when, where?) as well as the all important volume of data about Colorado's birds which DFO has collected over the years.

The paper copies of all these documents are held by Kris in the Museum's archives as well as additional documents from Warren's collection. Now each document will be scanned as a high quality, readable PDF file and stored in the Museum's computer system. Additionally, the potential exists to have all these PDF files on DFO's website for easy access to the membership. Kris and Veronica Holt, our webmaster, are currently discussing these possibilities.

One might wonder how files on our website could be useful. Not only would members be able to look back through old Lark Buntings to see what happened when, but these PDF files ARE SEARCHABLE using the free software called Adobe Reader. Open the June, 1968, Lark Bunting and type in "yellow" and click through all reports of yellow warblers, yellow-headed blackbirds, etc.

Another example of the usefulness of this amazing resource is a project Tim Smart completed recently (using paper copies) of going back through the Lark Buntings and compiling a COMPLETE list of the sites and locations that DFO has used for field trips through the years. Some sites such as the Mile High Duck Club below Barr Lake no longer exist, but I sure would love to have a copy of that list for my own trip planning file!

Kris is coordinating with Warren to share all documents, and she is coordinating with Veronica to see how best to share the digitized documents with DFO for the website. All this is being done at NO COST to DFO! A BIG thanks to Kris Haglund for all her work on this enormous project! Stay tuned for updates on additions of historic DFO documents to the website (we already have three years of trip lists there now), and watch for interesting tidbits of DFO history in future Lark Buntings.

April 2010 Field Trip Summaries

April 3, Saturday *Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)*

Leader(s): Buzz Schaumberg. **Observers:** Jim Connell, Joan Coxe, Clint and Carol Flynn, Warren Finch, Jeannie Girard, Peggy Gonder, Becca Hammons, Nancy Hawkins, Pauline Ide, Mary Keithler, Robert Montgomery, Karen Rademacher, Jean Stevenson, Debbie Seiden, Betsy Shaw, Bob Shade, Arnold Silverman, Melissa Smith. **Time:** 0830-1200. **Distance:** 2 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, mixed deciduous. **Weather:** Sunny, clear sky, 42-60°F, windy with easterly fresh breeze gusting to over 30mph. **Totals:** 35 species, 309 individuals.

Apr 10, Saturday *Ponderosa Pine Reserve, Aurora (PON)*

Leader(s): Mary Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 13. **Time:** 0815-1030. **Distance:** 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Ponderosa pine, savannah and shortgrass prairie, riparian. **Weather:** Clear, 40°F. **Totals:** 22 species, 96 individuals.

Apr 11, Sunday *South Mesa Trail (SOU)*

Leader(s): Paula Hansley. **Observers:** Bill Bell, Karen Bell, Jacques Chartier, Nelson Ford, Peggy Gonder, Mary Keithler, Bonnie Mulvany, Chris Owens. **Time:** 0815-1200. **Distance:** 3.3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Foothills riparian (flowing stream), shrubby slopes, ponderosa/spruce/ douglas fir on mesas. **Weather:** Partly cloudy, 40-68°F, no wind. **Totals:** 29 species, 103 individuals. **Highlights:** Seeing a pair of Pygmy Nuthatches both excavate a nest hole. Also seeing a Black-capped Chickadee go in and out of a hole and doing some 'excavation', We heard and saw a Cooper's Hawk streak through a pine forest; a kettle of eight Turkey Vultures; and first of the season for me Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Audubon's Warbler.

Apr 10-11, Sat-Sun *Wray (WRA)*

Leader(s): Mary Cay Burger. **Observers:** 23. **Time:** 1130 Sat-1200 Sun. **Distance:** 28 miles by car. **Habitat:** Short-grass fields, cropland, town, lake, sandhills ranch, riparian. **Weather:** 30-60°F. **Totals:** 34 species, 374 individuals. **Highlights:** Best weather possible! 51 Greater Prairie Chickens put on quite a show at the lek and a pair of Burrowing Owls too.

Apr 17, Saturday *Barr Lake State Park (BAR)*

Leader(s): Bob Andrews. **Observers:** Jacques Chartier, Patricia Echelmeyer, Gail Evans, Nelson Ford, Mary Keleher (Cape Cod, MA), Kent and Liz Kreider, Sue Schulman, Debbie Seiden, Betsy Shaw, Bob Spencer. **Time:** 0700-1500. **Distance:** 24 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian cottonwood-willow woodland, lake, dry fields, wet meadows, small ponds, cattail marshes, elevation 5000-5100'. **Weather:** Partly cloudy and calm in morning, overcast with wind and some rain in afternoon, 40-56°F, south wind, 19-24mph. **Totals:** 69 species, 1817 individuals. **Highlights:** Mountain race Downy Woodpecker, close-up views of Horned Grebe in full breeding plumage.

Apr 18, Sunday *Dinosaur Ridge Hawk Watch (DIN)* Trip report not available at time of printing.

Apr 24, Saturday *Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWF (ROC)*

Leader(s): Dave Rhoades. **Observers:** Don Beltz, Linda Broeren, Bill Buttner, Vicki Buttner, Jean Davis, Linda Knudsen, Walter Knudsen, Joe Roller, Tim Smart, Kiki Widjaja. **Time:** 0800-1200. **Distance:** 10 miles by car. **Habitat:** Lakes, prairie, wetlands, elevation 5250'. **Weather:** Cloudy, 40°F, north wind, 20mph. **Totals:** 60 species, 599 individuals.

Apr 25, Sunday *McCabe Meadows Park-formerly Parker Regional Park (MCC)*

Leader(s): Steve Kennedy. **Observers:** Mary Burger, Tom Burger, Patty Echelmeyer, Gwen Kelaidis, Deb Kennedy, Lisa Lubin, Chuck Waters. **Time:** 0730-1130. **Distance:** 2 miles by car, 6 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, ponds, marsh, plains, elevation 5500'. **Weather:** Overcast, 29-45°F, northeast wind, 10-25mph. **Totals:** 52 species, 351 individuals.

Apr 29, Thursday *Chico Basin (CHI)* Trip report not available at time of printing.

Get Fluent in Bird Body Language



White Ibis by Loyce Hood
© Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Ithaca, NY—In just five weeks, it's possible to learn enough about bird behavior to forever change the way you look at these complex and beautiful creatures. The first step is to register for the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology's](#) online bird behavior course: **"Investigating Behavior: Courtship and Rivalry in Birds."**

"You'll explore and appreciate a new little corner of your world," promises instructor Kevin McGowan. "We'll have you thinking like a bird!"

The goal of the online behavior course is to help people learn how to observe and interpret bird behavior and communication. A basic principle of bird behavior as it relates to survival and reproduction is explored each week using multimedia and interactive activities, guided by an instructor.

As an added bonus, during the course students have free access to the *Birds of North America Online*--the most comprehensive and latest scientific information about North American birds, including images, sounds, and some video.

To enroll, visit www.ecornell.com/birds and watch the video describing course content. Course size is limited. Future sessions for 2010 begin June 23, August 4, and September 15. The cost of the course is \$295 (\$255 for Cornell Lab members) plus an additional \$30 registration fee. To receive the Cornell Lab member discount, sign up toll-free at (866) 326-7635.

Course Contact: Megan Whitman, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, (607) 254-2121, mlw57@cornell.edu

Media Contact: Pat Leonard, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, (607) 254-2137, pel27@cornell.edu



Welcome New and Returning Members!

Richard Holmes Anderson, 2330 S Cook St, Denver, CO 80210-5527, 303.757.4582

Robert Canter, 4877 Knox Ct, Denver, CO 80221-1127, 303.477.6278

Walter Combs, 16240 W Ellsworth Ave, Golden, CO 80401-6543 303.278.4074

Jeannie Girard, 13601 E Marina Dr Apt 507, Aurora, CO 80014, 303.337.6630

Gwen Kelaidis, 75 Pierce St, Lakewood, CO 80226, 303.274.6454

Donna Keslin, 16670 Eolus Way, Broomfield, CO 80023, 720.890.2795

Kathleen Ottercrans, 226 Juniper St, Louisville, CO 80027

Karen Rademacher, 13500 County Rd 13, Longmont, CO 80504

Marilyn Rhodes, 29036 Clover Lane, Evergreen, CO 80439-8441, 303.674.6580

Thank you for the extra donation, Marilyn Rhodes and Mary Katz. As was announced at a recent meeting, DFO has received generous donations for the Rare Bird Alert and has enough to pay the phone bill for many years to come. All donations will now go to the Educational Endowment Fund.

So Sayeth the Epic Geek...

On April 26, in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Nathan Pieplow prescribed a tonic for a common illness that peaks in the spring every year for DFO birders, birdsong brainfreeze. He recommends listening and categorizing songs into the following groups and subgroups:

Trills				
Chipping Sparrow Group	Blue-winged Warbler	Brewer's Sparrow	Field Sparrow	Marsh Wren
Continuous trill	2 trills or buzzes	3+ trills or buzzes	Accelerating trill	Short notes followed by monotone trill
Northern Pygmy-owl Juniper Titmouse Wilson's Warbler Orange-crowned Warbler Dark-eyed Junco Chipping Sparrow Spotted Towhee Brewer's Sparrow	Dark-eyed Junco Blue-winged Warbler Brewer's Sparrow	Golden-winged Warbler Clay-colored Sparrow Brewer's Sparrow White-winged Crossbill	Field Sparrow Black-chinned Sparrow Western Screech-Owl	Black-throated Sparrow Canyon Towhee Marsh Wren Grasshopper Sparrow Spotted Towhee Dickcissel Red-winged Blackbird Yellow-headed Blackbird

Songs based on Series				
American Pipit	Ovenbird	Common Yellowthroat	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Northern Waterthrush
Series of one-syllabled notes	Series of two-syllabled notes	Series of three-syllabled notes	Two short series	Three short series
American Pipit Canyon Towhee Northern Cardinal Chipping Sparrow	Juniper Titmouse Carolina Wren American Pipit Ovenbird Black-and-White Warbler Kentucky Warbler Northern Cardinal	Juniper Titmouse Carolina Wren Ruby-crowned Kinglet Common Yellowthroat	Yellow-rumped Warbler MacGillivray's Warbler Virginia's Warbler Yellow Warbler Nashville Warbler	Northern Waterthrush Tennessee Warbler Lucy's Warbler Virginia's Warbler

Short Complex Songs		
Oriole/Meadowlark	Warbling/Vireo	House Wren
Complex whistled phrases w/o pause	Mid-length musical warbles w/o pause	Complex musical phrases start with warble and end with 2+trills w/o pause
Western Meadowlark Eastern Meadowlark Baltimore Oriole Scott's Oriole Bullock's Oriole	Warbling Vireo Bell's Vireo House Finch Cassin's Finch Pine Grosbeak Blue Grosbeak Rufous-crowned Sparrow	House Wren Lincoln's Sparrow

Continued on page 9

Think before you Drink, Coffee Choice Helps Birds

Ithaca, NY—A simple lifestyle choice can have a positive impact on bird conservation around the world. Scientists have established that the traditional method of growing coffee—beneath the canopy of a forest, rather than chopping down the trees for sun-grown coffees—provides vital habitat for birds.

“It’s a simple formula: keep the trees, keep the birds,” says Dr. Kenneth Rosenberg, director of Conservation Science at the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#). “When trees are retained, this has tremendous value to birds, especially migratory birds that winter in Central and South America and breed in North America during the summer.” Research has shown that traditional shade-grown coffee plantations in Mexico can support more than 100 bird species, compared with 6–12 species in sun-grown monocultures.

Support of the shade-grown coffee movement has led to a new partnership between the Cornell Lab and [Birds & Beans®](#), a Massachusetts-based retailer that specializes in shade-grown coffee products certified “Bird Friendly®” by the [Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center](#). This certification means that Birds & Beans coffee is 100%-organic and shade-grown.

“We started this project to make it easier for bird and nature lovers to do the right thing and enjoy great-tasting coffee at the same time,” says Bill Wilson, co-founder of Birds & Beans. “By partnering with the Cornell Lab, we’re sure we can all make a big difference for tanagers, thrushes, orioles, warblers, and other beautiful songbirds.”

People who buy Birds & Beans Bird Friendly coffee also help protect birds a second way: A portion of all online sales and sales of the coffee from some [Wild Birds Unlimited](#) stores goes to the Cornell Lab to help support its ongoing bird research, education, and conservation programs.

“Simply drinking the right coffee is an easy way for people to make a real difference for birds,” says Rosenberg. “We’re happy to support Birds & Beans in this effort and help bird and nature lovers make the right choice.”

Contact: Pat Leonard, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, (607) 254-2137, pel27@cornell.edu



The Townsend's Warbler breeds in the Pacific Northwest and spends its winters in Mexico and Central America. Photo by Craig Kern © Cornell Lab of Ornithology

*DFO monthly meetings resume in August.
Do send us reports of your summer birding experience. For those of you new to the
birding culture, there are wonderful identification tips and tricks in educational
birding behavior on the Cornell web site:*

<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1056>

So Sayeth the Epic Geek...continued

Phrased Songs	
Vireo/Flycatcher	American Robin
Varying 1-3-syllabled phrases widely spaced	1-3-syllabled phrases grouped into series separated by short pauses
Plumbeous Vireo Cassin's Vireo Red-eyed Vireo Western Wood-Pee-wee All Empids All Phoebes Goldfinches	American Robin Black-headed Grosbeak Rose-breasted Grosbeak Western Tanager Scarlet Tanager Hepatic Tanager McCown's Longspur

Long Complex Songs				
Sage Thrasher	Goldfinch	Brown Thrasher	Mockingbird	Barn Swallow
Long musical warbling w/o pause or repeats	Complex song w elements repeated w/o pauses	Complex song w elements repeated 2-3 times w brief pauses between	Complex song with elements repeated 3+ times w long pauses between	1-3 syllabled phrases grouped into series by short pauses
Sage Thrasher Townsend's Solitaire Pine Siskin McCown's Longspur	Bendire's Thrasher Goldfinches Pine Siskin Bobolink	Brown Thrasher Curve-billed Thrasher American Dipper	Rock Wren Northern Mockingbird Yellow-breasted Chat	Barn Swallow Cliff Swallow Cave Swallow Purple Martin

To complete the cure, we may use over-the-counter remedies such as tonal quality or pneumonics such as "Presta me tu cuchillo" (Buff-collared Nightjar), but apparently these aural remedies are less evidence-based than visual representations of sound called sonograms.

Follow Nathan on his blog at www.earbirding.com/blog, but give him a little time because....(sonogram here of *Phantom of the Opera* overture)....the Epic Geek has been hacked.... and is cleaning house as of today, April 30, 2010.

Carol Blackard

April Field Trip Summaries, continued

Tuesday Birders

Apr 6 *Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield (DEN)*

Observers: 33. **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 3½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, ponds, cottonwood, willow, cattails, open fields. **Weather:** Cloudy to sunny, 40-42°F, northwest wind, 5-35mph. **Totals:** 29 species, 240 individuals.

Apr 13 *Chatfield State Park (CHA)*

Observers: 37. **Time:** 0900-1330. **Distance:** 10 miles by car. **Habitat:** Large reservoir, riparian, prairie grass, cottonwood, grassy areas, shoreline. **Weather:** Sunny, 60-67°F, windy, southwest wind, 5-25mph. **Totals:** 34 species, 147 individuals.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

PRESIDENT

Charles Thornton-Kolbe, 2284 S Josephine Street, Denver CO 80210, 303.777.7588
Charles@pibird.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Lynn Willcockson, 2698 S Niagara, Denver CO 80224 303.757.7000
lynnliz2698@aol.com

TREASURER

Bob Shade, 9353 W Nevada Place, Lakewood CO 80226-3029, 303.975.2476
WRSHADE3@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Sue Schulman, 6024 E Briarwood Drive, Centennial CO 80112-1030, 303.773.3540
suemschulman@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

Rick and Connie Steinkamp (12)
ricconcal@comcast.net
John Drummond (12)
jxdrummo@aol.com
Carol Blackard (11)
carol-blackard@comcast.net
Ira Sanders (11) greatauk@msn.com
Niña Routh (10) nrouth@copper.net
Chris Blakeslee (10) chrisabla@aol.com

Membership Chair and Past President

Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742 303.771.3431
mcburger3@juno.com

HISTORIAN

Warren Finch, 303.233.3372

FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS

Patty Echelmeyer, 303.233.4947,
Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct
Jackie King, 303.287.1644,
Feb, May, Aug, Nov
Meredith Anderson, 303.280.8576
Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec

Lark Bunting Editor/Webmaster

Veronica Holt, 303.646.3829
veronicaholt@Q.com

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Dick Kolbe, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, trip reports from the previous month, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome and openly solicited. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80232, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net.

Additional Reports

Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 1221 E Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128 dacbcook@comcast.net.

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcook@comcast.net.

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson meander303@mac.com

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303-771-1421, email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is back-up contact person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email d_d_hill@comcast.net.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Rare Bird Alert: With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sightings of rare or unusual birds, located on the Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site.

Denver Field Ornithologists 2010 Membership Application

Please indicate:	☐ New Membership	☐ Renewal
<i>All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st.</i>		
☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00 ☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00 ☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00		
For those who wish to have the field trip reports mailed to them, rather than downloading from the DFO web site, please add an additional \$10 to your regular membership.		
☐ Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund \$_____		
<i>DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation.</i>		
I would like to lead a bird watching field trip Yes ☐ No ☐		
Address		
City	State	Zip Telephone
Electronic <i>Lark Bunting</i> Email address:		

Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

JULY 2010

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 45, Number 7



July Field Trips

Friday, July 2 *Genesee Mountain Park*

Leader: Kathanne Lynch (303) 968-4750. Meet at 0800 – Take Exit 254 on I70 – meet in RTD parking lot for ½ day trip. Should be less crowded for this weekday outing. Picnic tables for optional lunch. We'll search for families of mountain species such as crossbills, 3 nuthatches, Western Tanagers, Bluebirds, Williamson's Sapsucker and more!

Saturday, July 3 to Monday, July 5 *North Park – Joint Trip with BBC*

Leader: Chuck Lowrie, (303) 455-8417. Meet at Safeway parking lot on east side of US 40 in Fraser at 0900 on Saturday morning (Fraser is a 2 hour drive from Denver.) Make reservations for Saturday & Sunday nights in Walden at the North Park Inn, (970) 723-4271, or the Chedsey Motel, (970) 723-8201. A state parks pass and (if under 65 years) a Colorado Wildlife Habitat Stamp are required. Call leader if going and to arrange carpooling from Denver. Bring water, snacks, lunch, insect repellent and clothing for variable weather.

Saturday, July 10 *Lyons Area*

Leader: Ray Davis (303) 823-5332. Meet at 0830 at Lyon's Park 'n Ride, ½ block south of Main Street's traffic light. Bring lunch for dining on the Davis' porch – a fabulous birdy haven bordering on acres of open space – plus 40 bird boxes to investigate with great photo ops!

Sunday, July 11 *Brainard Lake and South St. Vrain area*

Leaders: Joanna Chan and Chishum Kwong (720) 304-2073. Meet at 0630 at Park 'n' Ride at the Superior/Louisville exit of Boulder Turnpike (and McCaslin Blvd) on north side near Colonial Theater. Carpooling important – limit 3 cars and 14 people plus leaders and their car. Trip will include a moderate, high-altitude hike at the lake, then the highlight – hummingbird *banding* at Debbie & Steve Bouricius' home a treat arranged by the leaders who work with Steve and Debbie and the hummers! Bring lunch and water (and maybe some sugar or sunflower seeds for the birds) plan on the trip ending about 3. Call the leaders to register by Wednesday, July 7. If too many wish to participate we'll draw names and call everyone.

Friday, July 16 *Filius Park and Mt. Evans*

Leader: Lynn Willcockson, (303) 757-7000. Meet at 0730 at Filius Park. Go west on I-70 to Evergreen exit, then to Bergen Park exit. Turn right to Filius Park. Bring lunch, water, clothes for changeable weather. Pipits and rosy finches will be "target" birds, but your day's tally will be surprising! Weekday trip will avoid weekend crowds. Golden Eagle or day pass needed.

Saturday, July 17 *Lair O' the Bear, Open Space Park (possibly continuing to Evergreen area)*

Leader: Bob Andrews (303) 249-5220. Meet at 0630 in parking lot. Go 4 miles west of Morrison on CO 74 through Idledale to park entrance on left. Mostly easy walking and we'll spot a good variety of species with Bob, who co-authored "Birds of Colorado" with Bob Righter.

Continued on next page

July Field Trips, continued

Sunday, July 18

Rocky Mountain National Park

Leader: Ed Holub (303) 979-2194. Meet at 0800 at Visitor Center near Beaver Meadows Entrance to Park. Bring lunch and clothes for variable weather. Ed is tuned in to hot spots for flycatchers, crossbills, woodpeckers (hopefully Red Naped and Williamson's Sapsuckers – maybe even 3-Toed Woodpeckers!) Trip will end about 3:00. Parks Pass needed.

Saturday July 24

O'Fallon Park – Intensive Sound Study in the Field

Leader: Alison Kondler (303) 904-9140. Meet at 0700 at C470 & Morrison Road. Go west on Morrison Rd from C470. Take the first right on S. Rooney Rd., then another right into the dirt parking lot which is directly EAST of the gas station. We will carpool from there. This is a unique DFO trip! We will study bird sounds in the field and learn how to attach the sound to the specific bird by using various creative techniques. Bring binoculars, water, snacks, bug spray and sound amplifiers (if needed.) Lunch optional. 1/2 day trip. It should be a great day! Please call soon to sign up. Space is limited to 15 people. Note: There will be quite a bit of uphill climbing at a birder's pace on this trip.

Sunday, July 25

Pine/Cheesman Bailey Area

Leader: Chris Blakeslee, (303) 694-4670. Meet leader at 0630 just south of Conoco station at Dartmouth and S. Sheridan (SW corner across from old Bear Valley Shopping Ctr.) Alternative: meet the group at 0710 at the Pine Junction Country Store on the west side of Hwy 285 at the stoplight in Pine Junction. Bring lunch and water for a fun day chasing mountain birds of all kinds. We may go searching for the Lewis's and Red-headed Woodpeckers which have nested near Cheesman Reservoir in recent years.

Saturday, July 31

Cherry Creek State Park

Leader: Mary Keithler (303) 771-1421. Meet at the Marina at 0730 for this 1/2 day trip. (To reach the Park from Yosemite St go east on Union Ave past Cherry Creek High School to park entrance) Bring sunscreen, bug spray and optional lunch. We'll check out bird happenings in some the least populated areas (hopefully!) of this popular park.

Schedule by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook.

Welcome New Members

Walter Combs, 16240 W Ellsworth Ave, Golden, CO 80401, 303.278.4074

Rena Fowler, 485 Niagara St, Denver, CO 80220-6023 303.3221967

Kim Morss, 1323 Cherryville Rd, Greenwood Village, CO 80121, 303.779.5534

An Additional Report from Doris Cruze

On Monday, May 10, Diane Wagner and I were at South Platte Park (on an Atlas trip) when we saw two really good birds. (South Platte Park is in Littleton, Arapahoe County just for the record). We saw an Ash-throated Flycatcher and a Common Nighthawk, plus the usual birds of the area.

What's in a Name?



While quaffing a cold beer with fellow birder Meredith and commenting on different brewers of the malted beverage, we wondered why a certain black bird is named after the beer maker's profession. Well, actually Dr. Thomas Mayo Brewer of Boston was an American naturalist & ornithologist, living from 1814 – 1880. He co-authored the "History of North American Birds" with Spencer F. Baird and Robert Ridgeway. In 1857 he also authored "North American Oology". While being involved in local politics, as his father had, (he was a participant in the Boston Tea Party), this gentleman's preference was to study bird skins in museums collections. He actually had contempt for those studying birds in the field! Dr. Brewer also defended the House Sparrow against plans to eliminate this introduced species from the US. Our friend J. Audubon, who held Thomas in high esteem actually named the blackbird for the doctor, after it was described by Johann Wagler. The Brewer's sparrow was described by John Cassin and also named for Dr. Brewer.

Have you been out to the grasslands this spring and seen all the McCown's Longspurs? What a marvelous bird and it was named after a Major-General no less. John Porter McCown, fought as a Confederate soldier during the Civil War and worked as a farmer and teacher after the hostilities. He collected the longspur after firing on a group of Horned Larks. Those were the days.....The bird was named by George Lawrence (of the goldfinch fame but that's another story....) for McCown after working on the collections at the Smithsonian Institution.

Happy Spring birding to all, Niña

AUDUBON LAUNCHES NATIONAL OIL SPILL VOLUNTEER RESPONSE CENTER

Facility in Mississippi to mobilize more than 13,000 volunteers

New York, NY, June 4, 2010 -

A new national Volunteer Response Center is gearing up to channel the energies of a growing force of volunteers seeking to help birds, wildlife and habitat to weather the assault of the Gulf oil spill.

The National Audubon Society will use the facility in Moss Point, Mississippi along with organizers deployed to affected areas in four states to contact, coordinate and mobilize more than 13,000 volunteers who signed up with Audubon in the first weeks of the disaster. That number is expected to grow.

"The volunteer response to this growing disaster has been amazing," said Sean Saville, National Field Director for the National Audubon Society. "People just want to do something to help, and with the additional coordinating capacity at our new Volunteer Response Center we can engage volunteers in a positive and timely way and also help set realistic expectations about what volunteer opportunities are available. Volunteers with the right skills and a positive attitude can make a world of difference by being available when and where they're needed." To sign up to [Volunteer](#)

Media Contacts:

Mark W. LaSalle, Ph.D

Director, Pascagoula River Audubon Center Audubon Mississippi, 228-475-0825 , mlasalle@audubon.org

May 2010 Field Trip Summaries

May 1, Saturday *Roxborough State Park (ROX)*

Leader(s): Alison Kondler. **Observers:** 18. **Time:** 0800-1400. **Distance:** 2½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lowland riparian, grassland, coniferous, scrub oak, cliff, elevation 5460'. **Weather:** Partly cloudy. **Totals:** 40 species, 156 individuals.

Highlights: Just as I was stating that the Golden Eagles have not nested here for two years, a large female flew off of her nest (in a new location) right over our heads and then back again. What a pleasant surprise and a real time 'foot in the mouth' moment.

May 2, Sunday *Dawson Butte and Columbine Open Space, Douglas County (DAW)*

Leader(s): Doris Cruze. **Observers:** Nancy Crews, Paul Thayer, Phoebe Thayer, Dennis Wojcicki. **Time:** 0730-1400. **Habitat:** Wetlands, open foothills meadows, scrub oak, ponderosa pine forests. **Weather:** Cloudy, 26-44°F, southwest wind at 10-15mph shifting to north at 15-25mph. **Totals:** 40 species, 347 individuals.

Highlights: Many Western and Mountain Bluebirds, with several pairs spotted perched on Blue Bird boxes in three separate areas.

May 14-16, Fri-Sun *Bonnie State Park (BON)*

Leader(s): Bob Righter. **Observers:** Tim Schowalter, Betsey Shaw, Frances Sperl, Jack and Joan Whiting. **Time:** 1700 Fri-1100 Sun. **Distance:** 10 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riverine forest, aquatic, prairie, elevation 4200'. **Weather:** Nasty, rain, 40-55°F, wind 20mph. **Totals:** 96 species, 1079 individuals.

May 15, Saturday *Wheat Ridge Green Belt (WHE)*

Leader(s): Dick Schottler. **Observers:** Marge Burgess, Bob Canter, Joan Cox, Jean Davis, Peggy Gonder, Judy Miller, Yvonne Parrott, Ray Sperger, Jamie Swain, Barbara Thomas, Mary Zick. **Time:** 0730-1200. **Distance:** less than 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Stream and lakes with associated riparian. **Weather:** Partly to mostly cloudy, 45-55°F, calm. **Totals:** 54 species, 721 individuals.

Highlights: This was an easy-paced trip that turned up a surprising variety of birds along a short stretch of Clear Creek, including hundreds of swallows, lots of Yellow-rumped Warblers (both Myrtle and Audubon and a male Myrtle x Audubon intergrade with a bright yellow chin and white throat). Surprises included the American Pipit and a singing Northern Waterthrush.

May 22, Saturday *Rigli Ranch (RIG)*

Leader(s): Joe Rigli. **Observers:** Tom Bunker, Jean Frazier, Cliff and Pauline Ide, Chuck and Mary Metzger, Peter Walker. **Time:** 0830-1300. **Distance:** 5 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Sandhill-sagebrush, riparian woodlands, ponds, fields, shortgrass prairie, elevation 4330'. **Weather:** Clear, sunny, warm in morning; clear, sunny, hot in afternoon; 74-88°F, southeast wind, 5-20mph. **Totals:** 50 species, 232 individuals.

May 23, Sunday *McCabe Meadows Park (MCC)*

Leader(s): Steve Kennedy. **Observers:** Margaret Arp, Deb Kennedy. **Time:** 0730-1130. **Distance:** 4 miles. **Weather:** Partly cloudy, 36-50°F, light wind. **Totals:** 63 species, 327 individuals.

May 29-31, Sat-Mon *Crescent Lake Refuge, Nebraska (CRE)*

Leader(s): Chris Owens. **Observers:** Chuck Lowrie, Jim Petri, Louise Stone. **Time:** 0800Sat-1630Mon. **Distance:** 604 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Pond, lake, riparian, grasslands, foothills, agricultural, elevation 3500-5000'. **Weather:** Partly cloudy to clear, wind variable direction and speed. **Totals:** 93 species, 6356 individuals.

Highlights: At Crescent Lake, a Long-billed Curlew was standing sentinel on a nearby hillock. He was calling repeatedly. We watched and listened to him for quite a while and as we left, he came flying at us, determined to scare off the car. What a great moment.

Continued on next page

Spring Count Report

This year we had the third-highest number of birds in our 31 years of Spring Counts. (The highest, 28,469 birds, came last year.) Big contributors: 4181 swallows including 5301 Cliff Swallows at Lower Bear Creek, 1542 sparrows (940 Chippers). The 175 species also ranked third-highest.

Barr Periphery counted 335 White-faced Ibis, the bulk of the 504 Ibis seen. Among the 672 warblers, Lower Bear Creek saw a Black-and-white. Other unusual species: 2 Whimbrels at Barr, 1 Bonaparte's Gull at Rocky Mtn. Arsenal, 4 Black-chinned Hummingbirds at Chatfield, 1 Long-eared owl at Waterton, the only California Gull at Cherry Creek Res. Castlewood counted an impressive 17 Red-breasted Nuthatches, and the 36 American Pipits was second-highest of our Spring Counts.

Lynn Willcockson initiated a count at Cherokee Ranch, private open space near Sedalia. That count found the only Wild Turkey, Lewis's Woodpeckers, and Pygmy Nuthatches.

Hugh Kingery

The summaries are on the next page

May Field Trips continued

May 29, Saturday *Willow Springs Open Space (WIL)*

Leader(s): Mike Henwood. **Observers:** Karen Belleni, Mary Keithler, Nin Routh, Walt and Linda Knudson, Rick and Connie Steinkamp. **Time:** 0730-1500. **Distance:** 5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Mountain shrub, Gambel's oak, montaine riparian, Douglas fir-Ponderosa forest. **Weather:** Sunny to partly cloudy; 50-75°F. **Totals:** 42 species, 289 individuals. **Highlights:** Heard 10 singing Ovenbirds, had good looks at one. Discovered a Cordilleran Flycatcher building a nest. Had good looks at both Virginia's and MacGillivray's warblers, and had chance to hear and compare the two songs. Had good looks at singing Lazuli bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Black-headed Grosbeak and Western Tanager.

May 30, Sunday *Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (WHE)*

Leader(s): Tamie Bulow. **Observers:** Bob Brandle, Joan Cox, John Dillon, Patty Echelmeyer, Barbara Fay, Jim Fisher, Fred Hager, Nancy Hawkins, Monna Krebs, Robert Montgomery, Colleen Nunn, Betsy Shaw, Larry and Roni Wilson. **Totals:** 48 species, 340 individuals.

May 31, Monday *South Platte Trail and 88th (SOU)*

Leader(s): Steve Kennedy **Observers:** Joan Cox, Deb Kennedy. **Time:** 0730-1130. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Weather:** Mostly sunny, 52-77°F, wind 0-5mph. **Totals:** 36 species, 775 individuals.

Tuesday Birders

May 4 *Lair o' the Bear Open Space Park (LAI)*

Observers: 35. **Time:** 0900-1330. **Distance:** 3½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, cottonwood, willow, some ponderosa pine and blue spruce. **Weather:** Sunny, 61-68°F, gusty southwest and northwest wind, 0-45mph. **Totals:** 22 species, 109 individuals.

May 11 *Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR (ROC)*

Observers: 25. **Time:** 0900-1130. **Habitat:** Plains riparian, wetlands, plains shortgrass prairie, cottonwoods and man-made lakes. **Weather:** Cloudy to sunny, 42°F, northeast wind, 6-10mph. **Totals:** 38 species, 997 individuals.

May 25 *Lower White Ranch Open Space Park (OPE)*

Observers: 36. **Time:** 0915-1245. **Distance:** 2½ miles on foot. **Weather:** Mostly sunny, 55-70°F, southeast wind, 0-10mph. **Totals:** 46 species, 207 individuals.

Spring Count Summaries, 2010

May 8, Saturday *Chatfield State Park (CSP)*

Leader(s): Joey Kellner. **Observers:** Dan Brooke, Ron Day, Paul Differding, Kate Frost, Jill Holden, Alison Kondler, Elizabeth Kreider, Kent Kreider, Randy Lentz, Stuart Liss, Dick Prickett, Bob Shade, Steve Stachowiak, Cheryl Teuton. **Time:** 0655-1858. **Distance:** 40 miles by car, 6 miles on foot. **Weather:** Partly cloudy turning mostly cloudy by mid-afternoon, 34-62°F, north wind 0-7mph. **Totals:** 100 species, 2296 individuals.

May 8, Saturday *Waterton (WAT)*

Leader(s): Hugh and Urling Kingery. **Observers:** Nicole Buyck, John Helmer, Meredith McBurney, Mary Menz, Kathryn Smith, Steve Smith, Karl Brummert. **Time:** 0600-1430. **Distance:** 10 miles by car, 5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, ponds, river, grassland, elevation 5400'. **Weather:** Clear, 40-50°F. **Totals:** 75 species, 940 individuals.

May 8, Saturday *Barr Lake State Park (BAR)*

Leader(s): Dick Schottler. **Observers:** None. **Time:** 0600-1600. **Distance:** 17½ miles by car, 5½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Plains reservoir with associated riparian. **Weather:** Mostly clear to overcast, 35-60°F, east to south wind, 0-25mph. **Totals:** 83 species, 1863 individuals.

May 8, Saturday *Barr Lake Periphery (BLP)*

Leader(s): Jackie King. **Observers:** Randall Longcore. **Time:** 0730-1430. **Distance:** 99 miles by car. **Habitat:** Plains and riparian, elevation 5280'. **Weather:** Clear morning, partly cloudy afternoon, 40-55°F, northwest wind, 0-5mph morning, 10-15mph afternoon. **Totals:** 64 species, 1809 individuals.

May 8, Saturday *Cherokee Ranch (CHE)*

Leader(s): Lynn Willcockson. **Observers:** Joe and Corrinne Bartell, Gail Evans, Merikay Haggerty, Buzz Schaumburg, Sue Schulman. **Time:** 0730-1400. **Distance:** 3 miles. **Habitat:** Scrub oak, ponderosa pine, open grass fields. **Weather:** Clear in morning, partly cloudy in afternoon, wind 5-25mph. **Totals:** 59 species, 310 individuals.

May 8, Saturday *Lower Bear Creek (LOW)*

Leader(s): Mike Henwood, Robert Righter, Nina Routh, Mike Foster, Tim Smart. **Observers:** Ginny Bergstrom, Rick Creswell, Michael Kiess, Kelly Miller, Paul Slingsby, Kiki Widjaja, Fran Enright, Hal McCartney, Kaylean Niyo, Deborah Ostergard. **Time:** 0630-1730. **Distance:** 37 miles by car, 9 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lake shore, riparian, low level shrubs, short grass prairie, grassy areas, marsh, urban. **Weather:** Cloudy to partly cloudy, 40-57°F. **Totals:** 103 species, 5301 individuals.

May 9, Sunday *Castlewood Canyon State Park (CAS)*

Leader(s): Randy Lentz. **Observers:** Laurie Duke, Christy Honnen, Lisa Lubin. **Time:** 0600-1600. **Distance:** 24 miles by car, 1½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, gambel oak, riparian, grassland, gravel pit, elevation 6300'. **Weather:** Clear in morning, partly cloudy in afternoon, 38-74°F, northwest wind, 0-5mph. **Totals:** 65 species, 783 individuals.

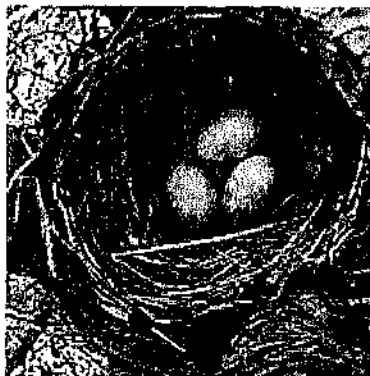
May 9, Sunday *Rocky Mountain Arsenal (ROC)*

Leader(s): Urling Kingery. **Observers:** Karen Bickett, Hugh Kingery, Alison Kondler, Lois Levinson, Polly Reetz, Marilyn Rhodes, Bob Santangelo, Sandy Seltzer, Jean Tate. **Time:** 0600-1630. **Distance:** 41 miles by car, 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, ponds, grasslands, elevation 5200'. **Weather:** Clear, 40-60°F. **Totals:** 110 species, 2275 individuals.

May 10, Monday *Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)*

Leader(s): Bob Brown. **Observers:** Pauline Ide, Gwen Kelaidis, Bob Righter, Hank Rosen. **Time:** 0615-1245. **Distance:** 17½ miles by car, 3¾ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Mixed riparian, open water, elevation 5570'. **Weather:** Mostly cloudy, 45-55°F, north wind, 0-10mph. **Totals:** 71 species, 659 individuals.

Volunteers Needed to Monitor Nesting Birds



Ithaca, NY--Peeking is allowed. In fact, it is a vital part of participation in the NestWatch citizen-science project offered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. NestWatchers peek into bird nests and nest boxes to collect data on which species are nesting, when eggs are laid, how many eggs are in a nest, and how many chicks hatch and fledge. Scientists use NestWatch information to learn more about nesting birds and study the impacts of climate change and land use.

"NestWatch is a free, fun activity for people of any age," says project leader Laura Burkholder. "The nesting season is now in full swing, and it's not too late to get in on the action. NestWatchers participate on their own, in classrooms, or as a homeschool project. We need more people to help gather this important information."

All materials and instructions are on the NestWatch website, including directions on how to get certified to monitor nests without disturbing the birds, following the NestWatch Code of Conduct. Look for information on how to provide the best and safest boxes for bluebirds, swallows, chickadees, and other cavity-nesting birds and how to monitor the nests of backyard birds that don't use nest boxes, such as phoebes, robins, and goldfinches.

Download and post this NestWatch flyer. (PDF)

NestWatch was developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in collaboration with the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, and funded by the National Science Foundation.

Project Contact: Laura Burkholder, (607) 254-2450, llb93@cornell.edu

DFO monthly meetings resume in August.

Do send us reports of your summer birding experiences.

For those of you new to the birding culture, there are wonderful identification tips and educational aids for bird identification on the Cornell web site:

<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1054>

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

PRESIDENT

Charles Thornton-Kolbe, 2284 S Josephine Street, Denver CO 80210, 303.777.7588
Charles@pibird.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Lynn Willcockson, 2698 S Niagara, Denver CO 80224 303.757.7000
lynnliz2698@aol.com

TREASURER

Bob Shade, 8353 W Nevada Place, Lakewood CO 80226-3029, 303.975.2476
wrshade3@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Niña Routh (10) nrouth@copper.net

DIRECTORS

Alison Kondler (13) fieldbirder@msn.com
Rick and Connie Steinkamp (12)
ricconcal@comcast.net
John Drummond (12)
jxdrummo@aol.com
Carol Blackard (11)
carol-blackard@comcast.net
Ira Sanders (11) greatauk@msn.com
Chris Blakeslee (10) chrisabla@aol.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742 303.771.3431
mcburger3@juno.com

HISTORIAN

Warren Finch, 303.233.3372

FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS

Patty Echelmeyer, 303.233.4947,
Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct
Jackie King, 303.287.1644,
Feb, May, Aug, Nov
Meredith Anderson, 303.280.8576
Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec

Lark Bunting Editor/Webmaster

Veronica Holt, 303.646.3829
veronicaholt@Q.com

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hilf
and Dick Schottler.

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, trip reports from the previous month, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome and openly solicited. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80232, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128 dachcook@comcast.net.

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dachcook@comcast.net.

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson meander303@mac.com

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303-771-1421, email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is back-up contact person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email d_d_hill@comcast.net.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Rare Bird Alert: With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sightings of rare or unusual birds, located on the Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site.

Denver Field Ornithologists 2010 Membership Application

Please
indicate:

☐ New Membership

☐ Renewal

**All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year
if paid after October 1st.**

- ☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00
- ☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00
- ☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

For those who wish to have the field trip reports mailed to them, rather than downloading from the DFO web site, please add an additional \$10 to your regular membership.

- ☐ Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund \$ _____
DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation.

I would like to lead a bird watching field trip Yes ☐ No ☐

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Electronic *Lark Bunting* Email address: _____

Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE JULY 2010 DFO

	DFO FIELD TRIPS										
DATE	2	3-5	10	11	16	17	18	24	25	31	
LOCATION	GEN	NOR	LYO	BRA	FIL	LAI	ROC	OFA	PIN	CHE	TOTAL
Canada Goose	2	70								17	89
Gadwall		7									7
American Wigeon		20									20
Mallard		30		11	1				12	48	102
Blue winged Teal		3								9	12
Cinnamon Teal		30									30
Northern Shoveler		15									15
Northern Pintail		3									3
Green winged Teal		3									3
Canvasback		1									1
Redhead		21									21
Ring necked Duck		19									19
Lesser Scaup		12		7							19
Common Merganser		5									5
Ruddy Duck		13									13
Greater Sage Grouse		2									2
Pied billed Grebe		5									5
Eared Grebe		186									186
Western Grebe		80									80
American White Pelican		112								85	197
Double crested Cormorant		200								11	211
Great Blue Heron		3					1			6	10
Snowy Egret										15	15
Black crowned Night Heron										8	8
Turkey Vulture		1	2								3
Osprey									1		1
Bald Eagle		3									3
Northern Harrier		1									1
Cooper's Hawk			1							4	5
Swainson's Hawk		5								3	8
Red tailed Hawk		6	2				2		1		11
Golden Eagle		2	1								3
American Kestrel			3						1		4
Sora		1									1
American Coot		12									12
Killdeer		2					4			7	13
Black necked Stilt		1									1
American Avocet		10									10
Spotted Sandpiper		1		1			1			7	10
Willet		4									4
Wilson's Snipe		8					8				16
Wilson's Phalarope		5									5
Ring billed Gull										27	27
California Gull		210								33	243
Forster's Tern		3									3
Rock Pigeon			15						4	2	21
Band tailed Pigeon				8							8
Eurasian Collared Dove		5	1						8		14
Mourning Dove	1	1	5		1	4	2	2	20	13	49
Common Nighthawk		2									2
White throated Swift			12								12
Calliope Hummingbird				1					1		2

Broad tailed Hummingbird	4	20	8	70	16	13	8	7	12	7	165
Rufous Hummingbird		1	2	6		1			1		11
Belted Kingfisher						2			2	2	6
Lewis's Woodpecker									7		7
Red headed Woodpecker									1		1
Williamson's Sapsucker	4						2				6
Red naped Sapsucker		2		1			3	3			9
Downy Woodpecker		1				2		1	2	3	9
Hairy Woodpecker			2	1	1			1			5
Northern Flicker	3	2	2	1		1	2	2	5	1	19
Western Wood Pewee			3		1	6	5		2	4	21
Willow Flycatcher		1									1
Hammond's Flycatcher							1				1
Dusky Flycatcher						5	1				6
Cordilleran Flycatcher	8		5	1		4		10	12		40
Empidonax sp.									2		2
Say's Phoebe			2								2
Western Kingbird			1							5	6
Plumbeous Vireo								1	1		2
Warbling Vireo						2	2				4
Gray Jay				1							1
Steller's Jay			4	4	1		1	2	5		17
Blue Jay			2								2
Black billed Magpie	10		2	1			5			4	22
Clark's Nutcracker				10					1		11
American Crow	6		4		3	4	1	3	6	1	28
Common Raven		5	1	5	1		1	1	1		15
Northern Rough winged S						7					7
Tree Swallow		5	3	1			7		3		19
Violet green Swallow	10	5	15	5	8	3	10	6	15		77
Barn Swallow		6	2			3			10	17	38
Cliff Swallow		50	14						8	2	74
Black capped Chickadee	2	2				7		3	2	2	18
Mountain Chickadee	10	2	1	10	1			4	5		33
Red breasted Nuthatch				1				1	1		3
White breasted Nuthatch	1		2		2	1		1	5	1	13
Pygmy Nuthatch	20		3		5		5	13	20		66
Brown Creeper				1				2			3
Rock Wren									5		5
House Wren	5	2	4	1	2	2	20	6	6	8	56
Marsh Wren		3									3
Blue gray Gnatcatcher						5					5
American Dipper		2		5		1					8
Golden crowned Kinglet				2							2
Ruby crowned Kinglet				7			3	5			15
Western Bluebird	14				2				12		28
Mountain Bluebird			1				2		4		7
Townsend's Solitaire							1				1
Veery		2									2
Swainson's Thrush				1							1
Hermit Thrush	3			3							6
American Robin	5	3	5	10	3	2	2	2	2	3	37
Gray Catbird			1			6				1	8
Sage Thrasher		2									2
Cedar Waxwing			2			5			3	2	12
Yellow Warbler		4	5			4	1		2	7	23
Yellow rumped Warbler	1			10			2				13

Common Yellowthroat									5	6
Wilson's Warbler			10			1				11
Yellow breasted Chat			1							1
Green tailed Towhee						7	2			9
Spotted Towhee			4		5					9
Chipping Sparrow	3		2	10	4		11	26	25	81
Brewer's Sparrow		2								2
Vesper Sparrow	1	2					2			5
Lark Sparrow			1						3	3
Savannah Sparrow		5					6			11
Fox Sparrow			1							1
Song Sparrow			2	1		3	4	2	1	4
Lincoln's Sparrow		7		10			4			21
White crowned Sparrow		5		20						25
Dark eyed Junco	7	3		15			2	4	2	33
Western Tanager	1		2			3	4	1	2	13
Black headed Grosbeak			4		1	3			3	11
Lazuli Bunting			2			4				6
Indigo Bunting			1							1
Red winged Blackbird		10					13		10	1
Western Meadowlark		2								1
Yellow headed Blackbird		20								20
Brewer's Blackbird		6		1					80	87
Common Grackle									3	1
Brown headed Cowbird		9			1	6		4		20
Bullock's Oriole			2			1				3
Pine Grosbeak				3						3
Cassin's Finch		1		1	2		2			6
House Finch	3		12		3	2		2	1	3
Red Crossbill	3		2							5
Pine Siskin	8		8	15	1		2		4	38
Lesser Goldfinch	1		13		1	12		8	2	6
American Goldfinch			4			3			4	33
House Sparrow		2	3							5
TOTAL	136	1317	201	273	61	133	160	125	351	422

Genesee Mountain Park (GEN)

North Park (NOR)

Lyons Area (LYO)

Brainard Lake (BRA)

Filius Park and Bergan Park (FTL)

Lair O'the Bear Open Space Park (LAI)

Rocky Mountain National Park (ROC)

O'Fallon Park (OFA)

Pine and Cheesman Area (PIN)

Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE JULY 2010 TUESDAY BIRDERS

SPECIES	TUESDAY BIRDERS				
DATE	8	13	20	27	
LOCATION	GEN	ECH	MAX	PIN	TOTAL
Mallard		2		10	12
Common Merganser				4	4
Turkey Vulture	2	7			9
Swainson's Hawk	1				1
Red tailed Hawk		1		1	2
Mourning Dove	2		1	1	4
Broad tailed Hummingbird	26	15	11	9	61
Rufous Hummingbird		1			1
Downy Woodpecker	2		1	2	5
Hairy Woodpecker	1	1	1	2	5
Northern Flicker			7	1	8
Western Wood Pewee				1	1
Cordilleran Flycatcher	4	3	4	6	17
Plumbeous Vireo	2				2
Warbling Vireo	6				6
Gray Jay		2	1		3
Steller's Jay		3	3	1	7
Black billed Magpie	4	1			5
Clark's Nutcracker		2			2
American Crow	5	10	7	15	37
Common Raven	1	11	4	1	17
Tree Swallow	2			6	8
Violet green Swallow	8		7	13	28
Barn Swallow				19	19
Black capped Chickadee	4				4
Mountain Chickadee	7	1	5	4	17
Red breasted Nuthatch	4			1	5
White breasted Nuthatch	3			3	6
Pygmy Nuthatch	4		4	16	24
Brown Creeper			1	1	2
House Wren	5	1		7	13
Ruby crowned Kinglet	3	1			4
Western Bluebird	5				5
Mountain Bluebird		2			2
Townsend's Solitaire			1		1
Hermit Thrush	9	1			10
American Robin	4	3	5		12
Gray Catbird				1	1
European Starling		3		1	4
Cedar Waxwing				5	5
Yellow rumped Warbler	1	1	2	4	8
MacGillivray's Warbler	1				1
Wilson's Warbler		5			5
Chipping Sparrow	7			2	9
Vesper Sparrow			1		1
Lincoln's Sparrow		4			4

White crowned Sparrow		12			12
Dark eyed Junco	3	8	2	2	15
Western Tanager	3	1		6	10
Black headed Grosbeak	9		1		10
Brown headed Cowbird	3		1		4
Bullock's Oriole	1				1
Pine Grosbeak		1			1
Cassin's Finch	3				3
House Finch	4	4			8
Red Crossbill		2	2		4
Pine Siskin	15	3	5	6	29
Lesser Goldfinch		1		2	3
American Goldfinch				2	2
House Sparrow		1			1
TOTAL	164	114	77	155	

Stapleton Park – Selby's Feeder, Braille Trail and Genesee Park (STA)

Squaw Pass, Echo Lake, Mt. Goliath Visitor Center

Maxwell Falls (MAX)

Pine Valley Ranch Jeffco Open Space Park (PIN)



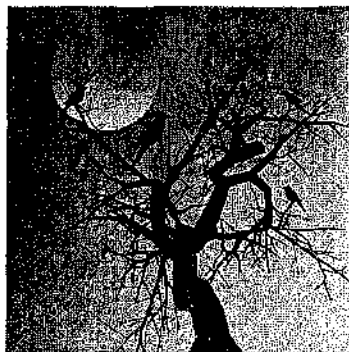
Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

AUGUST 2010

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 45, Number 8



Birding at Night: The Final Frontier with Ted Floyd

Monday, August 23, 2010 (4th Monday, NOT the last Monday)

DFO's Fall season starts with a bang bringing Ted Floyd back to the podium to discuss "avian nightlife" -- all the fascinating things birds do at night. We will learn how to identify birds by their nocturnal vocalizations, and we will learn how the new field of "nocturnal field ornithology" is leading to unexpected and important conservation applications.

Warning: birding at night is thoroughly addictive; as a result of attending Ted's presentation, you may find yourself increasingly sleep-deprived during the nighttime hours, not wanting to miss out on any of the thrills of nocturnal field ornithology.

Ted Floyd is the editor of *Birding*, the flagship publication of the American Birding Association. He received his Ph.D. from Penn State University in Ecology, and is the author of numerous articles and three recent books, including *The Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (HarperCollins). Ted is a frequent speaker at bird festivals and other birding events, and he is an instructor with the ABA's Institute for Field Ornithology. His last

Continued on page 3



August Field Trips

Sunday, August 1 *Rocky Mountain National Park*

Leader: Ed Holub, 303-979-2194. Meet leader at 0800 at the Visitor Center near the Beaver Meadows entrance. This will be an all day trip so bring lunch and extra water. Trip will probably finish about 3:15 or 3:30. The entrance fee is \$20 per car so carpooling is encouraged.

Sunday, August 8 *Colorado Springs Area*

Leader: Tami Bulow, 303.877.1990. Meet at 0715 at the Albertson's parking lot on the SE corner of Garden of the Gods and Centennial. Take the Garden of the Gods exit, go west for about 2 miles. (Bathrooms inside). Any locals can call me at for trip details. Bring a picnic lunch. Plan on departing Colorado Springs by 2.

Monday, August 9 *Barr Lake*

Leader: Joe Bartell, 770-524-8622. Meet at the Nature Center at 0700. Shore birds and other migrants are target species. State Parks Pass required. Half-day trip, may go longer, bring water and lunch.

Continued on next page

August Field Trips, continued

Friday, August 13

Gregory Canyon

Leader: Paul Slingsby, 303-442-3728. Meet leader at 0730 on Flagstaff Mountain-bring \$3 in cash to pay for parking. As this is a half day trip, lunch is optional but bring lots of drinking water and good hiking shoes for a moderate hike which will be looking for scarlet tanager, warblers, accipiters and buntings. Call the leader for more detailed directions and to register for the trip.

Saturday, August 14

Cherry Creek State Park

Leader: Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431. Meet leader at 0730 at the EAST Gate. State Parks Pass required. This will be a half to three quarter day trip; bring extra water, snacks and insect repellent but lunch is optional.

Sunday, August 15

Chimney Gulch near Golden

Leader: Mike Foster, 303-456-2647. Meet leader at 0730 at Chimney Gulch which is a good, diverse mix of plains, foothills and mountain habitats. This half day hike will take participants through 1000 foot gain in elevation. Bring water, snacks and wear good hiking shoes. Call the leader for the exact meeting place.

Saturday, August 21

McCabe Meadows Park and Castlewood Canyon

Leader: Sue Shulman, 303-773-3540. Meet leader at 0700 at the Nature Center at McCabe Meadows Park. From Main St. intersection in Parker, go south on Parker Rd. (Co 83) for 1.2 miles. Turn right on Indian Pipe Lane to parking lot on right. Bring lunch and plenty of drinking water. After looking for fall migrants, flycatchers and late leaving bluebirds, group will go to Castlewood Canyon to check out what is there. Let's see if this year will be as good as or better than last year's migration!

Sunday, August 23

South Platte Park

Leader: Doris Cruze, 303-798-8072. Meet leader at 0800 at Carson Nature Center north of Mineral Ave., 1 block west of S. Santa Fe Drive. Trip will explore the park. This half day trip will end at 11:30 or 12:00, depending on the weather. Bring water, sunscreen and insect repellent. Will be looking for birds in the river and the lakes.

Saturday, August 28

Rigli Ranch

Leader: Joe Rigli, 970-768-7121. Meet leader at ranch by 0830. From Hudson, go east on CO 52 until it turns north. Don't turn north, but continue east on Morgan County road F to CR 14, then turn north for approximately one mile to first house on left by boxcars. Bring lunch and extra water.

Sunday, August 29

Northeastern Colorado, Prewitt and Jackson Reservoirs

Leader: Joey Kellner, 303-978-1748. Meet leader at 0530 at the Division of Wildlife, 6060 No. Broadway - Exit I-25 at 58th Ave., go west 2 blocks to Broadway, then north 2 blocks to parking lot on right. Habitat Stamp for State Wildlife Areas and State Parks Pass required. This is an all day trip so bring lunch and plenty of water. Be sure to bring insect repellent and sunscreen. **Call leader if going.**

Scheduled by Jackie King, Compiled by Cris Cook

Migratory Coastal and Ocean Species Face a Grim Welcome

Audubon: New York, NY, July 1, 2010 -

For the next six months, beginning in early July, tens of millions of shorebirds, waterfowl and other migratory birds will land on oiled beaches, in sullied coastal wetlands and on tainted ocean waters. For some, the Gulf marks a rest stop, an opportunity to take a break and feed en route to more southern destinations; for others it will serve as home until next spring. But after flying hundreds or thousands of miles from nesting sites in the northern U.S., Canada, and the Arctic, many will soon face a far more perilous Gulf, where oil continues to spread uncontrolled and could contaminate new areas at any time.

"The Gulf of Mexico is like Grand Central Station for the birds of the Eastern United States and especially the Mississippi Flyway," said Audubon President Frank Gill. A substantial share of the birds that nest somewhere in the US or Canada pass through the Gulf during spring and fall migration and depend on healthy habitat to complete their journeys. "The impact of the Gulf disaster on migrating birds will be like a train derailment during rush hour," added Gill. "Not only will it affect the entire system, but its repercussions will be long-lasting. Enabling healthy bird populations to withstand the months and years before the Gulf is clean will require both a continuing emergency response and investments in long-term recovery."

What birds are at risk?

Ocean birds, shorebirds, waterbirds, and waterfowl that rely on saltwater habitat are at highest risk. Semipalmated Sandpipers, an Audubon Watchlist species, and Pectoral Sandpipers will be among the first to arrive, early in July. Both breed on tundra in the northernmost reaches of Canada and Alaska, and travel to Central and South America for the winter. Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and other sandpipers are also early migrants. Some will complete their journeys in the Gulf; others will continue to wintering grounds further south, but all face potential peril from the spill. Its effects will be felt by multiple generations - adult birds typically arrive first, and are followed by first-year chicks that hatched and fledged on northern nesting grounds. Sadly, as these shorebirds feed on mudflats, they will encounter oil - and will both ingest it through their food and get it on their feathers. Unless they are captured, cleaned and relocated, many will die.

Birds that spend the largest part of their life cycle in the Gulf will face even greater peril. These include many species that are well-known in migratory stopping points or in breeding grounds further north. Among them are the Common Loon, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Red Knot, Sanderling, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Western Sandpiper, and Long-billed Dowitcher. As fall migration continues into November and December, waterfowl like Mallards and Snow Geese will also arrive in the Gulf.

August Feature Presentation, continued

three appearances before DFO audiences were "The Most Excellent Birds in the World" (Oct. 2007); "Birding at Night: The Ultimate Frontier" (March 2009) about the mid to late summer molt migration of Colorado chipping sparrows; and "Birding 2.0 -- Using Technology to Become a Better Birder" (March 2010) presented in collaboration with Bill Schmoker and Nathan Pieplow. In that presentation the three discussed the latest gadgets and software available on the market to assist birders in finding their prey. Mark this date on your birding calendar NOW because, as always, you will not want to miss this entertaining and informative night in Ricketson Auditorium!

Upcoming Meeting Dates and Speakers

September 27, 2010 - Black Swifts in Colorado with Jason Beason of RMBO

October 25, 2010 - Scott Rashid and Small Mountain Owls

The Denver Field Ornithologists monthly meetings are held in Ricketson Auditorium at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science in City Park. These meetings are free and open to the public and occur on the 4th Monday of each month August through April (except December). Park on the north side of the Museum and walk around and enter through the Museum's west doors. Plan to arrive by 7:15pm; DOORS OPEN BY 7:00pm AND ARE LOCKED AT 7:30pm. If late, you can enter through the security/volunteer entrance on the north side of the building, but this does create problems for our hosts.

June 2010 Field Trip Summaries

Jun 4-6, Fri-Sun *Bonny Lake State Park (BON)* Trip report not available at time of printing.

Jun 5, Saturday *Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA)*

Leader(s): Dave Rhoades. **Observers:** Don Beltz, Vicki Camp, Linda Broeren, Joan Coxe, Jean Davis, Nelson Ford, Donna Keslin, Kris Koff, John Weslar, Karen Weslar. **Time:** 0800-1300. **Distance:** 10 miles by car, 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Prairie, woodlands, lakes, elevation 5250'. **Weather:** Partly cloudy, 80°F, light wind. **Totals:** 48 species, 337 individuals.

Jun 9-10, Wed-Thu *San Luis Valley (SAN)* Trip report not available at time of printing.

Jun 12, Saturday *Lyons Area (LYO)*

Leader: Raymond Davis. **Observers:** Will Burt, Chris Owens. **Time:** 0830-1230. **Distance:** 16 miles by car. **Weather:** Very rainy and cold. **Totals:** 48 species, 156 individuals.
Highlights

Jun 13, Sunday *Bailey Nesting Area, Silverthorne (BAI)*

Leader: Allison Hilf and Tim Smart. **Observers:** Edie Israel. **Distance:** 26 miles by car. **Weather:** Raining, snowing, heavy fog, hailing, and some sun. **Totals:** 42 species, 197 individuals.

Jun 19, Saturday *Peak-to-Peak Highway (PEA)* Trip report not available at time of printing.

Jun 20, Sunday *Lair o' the Bear Park (LAI)*

Leader(s): Nina Routh. **Observers:** Diane Carter, Will Burt, Carol and Dan Cook, Georgia Dorr, Terry Davidson, Jim Duggan, Lyn Graves, Marilyn Fowler, Mike Foster, Rena Fowler, Merikay Haggerty, Christy Honnen, Neil Montague, Marsha Milliken, Norm and Debbie Lewis, Toni Rautus, Mark Wallace, Lisa Turacek. **Time:** 0830-1215. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, foothills, ponderosa/juniper, elevation 7500'. **Weather:** Warm, 67-80°F, west wind, 5-10mph. **Totals:** 46 species, 324 individuals.

Jun 26, Saturday *Weld County (WEL)* Trip report not available at time of printing.

Jun 27, Sunday *Rocky Mountain National Park (ROC)*

Leader(s): Chris Owens. **Observers:** 9. **Time:** 0700-1230. **Distance:** 49 miles. **Totals:** 30 species, 102 individuals.

Tuesday Birders

Jun 1 *Prospect Park, Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (PRO)*

Leaders: Ann Bonnell and Else van Erp. **Observers:** 41 (two groups). **Time:** 0900-1330. **Distance:** 3½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lowland riparian, cottonwood, ponds, willow, cattails, lakes, urban park, elevation 5386'. **Weather:** Mostly cloudy to partly cloudy, 60-80°F, east wind, 0-8mph. **Totals:** 47 species, 618 individuals.

Jun 8 *Bear Creek Lake Park (BEA)*

Leaders: Mary Keithler and Dave Hill. **Observers:** 10. **Time:** 0900-1415. **Distance:** 1½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Reservoir, riparian, cottonwood, willow, cattails, open fields, elevation 5800'. **Weather:** Mostly cloudy, 60-68°F, south wind, 0-6mph. **Totals:** 38 species, 204 individuals.

Jun 15 *Belmar Historic Park (BEL)*

Leaders: Ann Bonnell and Else Van Erp. **Observers:** 27. **Time:** 0900-1215. **Distance:** 3½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, grassland, wetland, man-made ponds, elevation 5545'. **Weather:** Sunny, calm, 60-75°F, wind 0-3mph. **Totals:** 37 species, 304 individuals.

Continued on next page

June Field Trip Summaries, continued

Jun 22 *Reynolds Park Jeffco Open Space (REY)*

Leaders: Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 32. **Time:** 0830-1330. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian with narrow leaf cottonwood, ponderosa pine and Douglas fir, elevation 7605'. **Weather:** Clear to partly cloudy, 53-73°F, east wind, 0-10mph. **Totals:** 32 species, 141 individuals.

Jun 29 *Lair o' the Bear Jeffco Open Space (LAI)*

Leaders: Ann Bonnell, Else Van Erp and Mary Keithler. **Observers:** 41. **Time:** 0830-1230. **Distance:** 3½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, cottonwood, willow, some ponderosa pine and blue spruce, elevation 6427-7361'. **Weather:** Sunny, calm, 64-83°F, wind variable, 0-7mph. **Totals:** 43 species, 340 individuals.

Welcome New Members

Georgia Dorr, 2878 S Wheeling Way, Aurora, CO, 80014, 720.535.1479

Mark Wallace, 10196 Horizon View Dr, Morrison, CO, 80465-2358, 303.697.6268

Welcome Back! Anne Somerville, 855 Pennsylvania, Denver, CO 80203, 720.771.7894

Upcoming Audubon Field Trips

Filius Park, Echo & Summit Lakes (Mt. Evans)

Wednesday, July 14, 8am (full day)

\$15/Friends, \$17/non-members. Pre-registration required

Avoid the Mt. Evans weekend crowds! Explore diverse habitats from foothills to alpine. We hope to see Green-tailed Towhee, Pine Siskin, Western Bluebird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, and Cassin's Finch. Meeting Place: West on I-70 to Evergreen exit then 2 miles to first Bergen Park exit (stop light); turn right to Filius Park (100 yards). \$10 per car fee. Golden Eagle Pass may be used.

Skins, Skulls & Tracks - Mammals in the Park

Wednesday, July 14, 10am-12pm

Park Entrance Fee (\$7/car)

Meeting Place: Chatfield Heronry Parking Lot

Mucking in the Pond

Wednesday, July 21, 10am-12pm

No Fee

Meeting Place: Audubon Nature Center

Snakes Alive!

Wednesday, July 28, 10am-12pm

Park Entrance Fee (\$7/car)

Meeting Place: Chatfield Heronry Parking Lot

www.denveraudubon.org

Phone: 303-973-9530

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

PRESIDENT

Charles Thornton-Kolbe, 2284 S Josephine Street, Denver CO 80210, 303.777.7588
Charles@pibird.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Lynn Willcockson, 2698 S Niagara, Denver CO 80224 303.757.7000
lynnliz2698@aol.com

TREASURER

Bob Shade, 8353 W Nevada Place, Lakewood CO 80226-3029, 303.975.2476
wrshade3@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Niña Routh (10) nrouth@copper.net

DIRECTORS

Alison Kondler (13) fieldbirder@msn.com
Rick and Connie Steinkamp (12)
ricconcal@comcast.net
John Drummond (12)
jxdrummo@aol.com
Carol Blackard (11)
carol-blackard@comcast.net
Ira Sanders (11) greatauk@msn.com
Chris Brakeslee (10) chrisabla@aol.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742 303.771.3431
mcburger3@juno.com

HISTORIAN

Warren Finch, 303.233.3372

FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS

Patty Echelmeyer, 303.233.4947,
Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct
Jackie King, 303.287.1644,
Feb, May, Aug, Nov
Meredith Anderson, 303.280.8576
Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec

Lark Bunting Editor/Webmaster

Veronica Holt, 303.646.3829
veronicaholt@Q.com

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hilf
and Dick Schottler.

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, trip reports from the previous month, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome and openly solicited. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80232, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128 dacbcocook@comcast.net.

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, dacbcocook@comcast.net.

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson meander303@mac.com

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303-771-1421, email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is back-up contact person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email d_d_hill@comcast.net.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Rare Bird Alert: With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sightings of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site](#).

Denver Field Ornithologists 2010 Membership Application

Please
indicate:

☐ New Membership

☐ Renewal

*All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year
if paid after October 1st.*

- ☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00
- ☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00
- ☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

For those who wish to have the field trip reports mailed to them, rather than downloading from the DFO web site, please add an additional \$10 to your regular membership.

☐ Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund \$_____

DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation.

I would like to lead a bird watching field trip Yes ☐ No ☐

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Electronic Lark Bunting Email address: _____

Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE AUGUST 2010 DFO

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

House Finch			1	3	10		20	6		1	41
Red Crossbill	2										2
Pine Siskin	2										2
Lesser Goldfinch				12	2		18	2			34
American Goldfinch			9	1	20		7	7		2	46
House Sparrow	1		4				2	15		35	57
TOTAL	129	0	370	99	532	0	405	133	217	2306	4191
SPECIES	37	0	50	25	59	0	63	26	24	98	160

Rocky Mountain National Park (ROC)

South Platte Park (SOU)

Barr Lake (BAR)

Rigli Ranch (RIG)

Gregory Canyon and South Mesa Trail (GRE)

Northeastern Colorado, Prewitt and Jackson Reservoir,

Cherry Creek State Park

McCabe Meadows, Cherry Creek Reg Trail, Castlewood Canyon (MCC)

(NOR)



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

SEPTEMBER 2010

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 45, Number 9

DFO Monthly meeting for September 27, 2010 Black Swifts in Colorado with Jason Beason of RMBO

For most Colorado birders the best known Black Swift site is likely beautiful Box Canyon above the picturesque old mining town of Ouray. Ouray is located near the headwaters of the Uncompahgre River in southwestern Colorado. Here one ascends the mountainside southwest of town to find Box Canyon's rushing waterfalls and steep cliff faces which are home to this colony of Black Swifts. There is a metal catwalk which one follows into the dark, damp rock cleft under the falls. Once eyes adjust to this shadowy environment, one soon locates nestlings sitting in small cone-shaped nests made of mud and moss and clinging to the sheer rock face. These young birds are only fed at night and thus they are waiting patiently for evening and the return of the adults which have been out catching flying insects all day for the young birds. On a warm summer afternoon it would not be unusual to find Sue Hirshman recording observations about the colony as she has for many years in Box Canyon. Sue is from Kansas, but summers in Ouray and has recorded her observations in an interesting article in the Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists (vol. 32, pgs. 53-60, 1998).

It wasn't until 1949 that the FIRST Black Swift nest was discovered in Colorado by the eminent ornithological researcher Owen Knorr. He continued working through the 1950's finding a total of 35 Black Swift colonies in Colorado and making significant contributions to the understanding of the life cycles of these fascinating birds.

Continued on page 3



September Field Trips

Labor Day Weekend, no trips scheduled. September 10-12 Denver Fall Count—see next page

Saturday, September 18 Rocky Mountain National Park

Leader: Chris Owens, (303)722-6048. Enjoy the late-summer splendor of the Park while searching for lingering passerines, jays, raptors, perhaps a Dipper or two, and the always thrilling rarity! Meet Chris at 0800 at the Beaver Meadows Visitors' Center parking lot for a lovely day of birding alongside friends from the Boulder Bird Club. Bring lunch and plenty of water; scopes optional. Trip will wrap up at about 1400.

Sunday, September 19 - Lair o' the Bear Park

Leader: Niña Routh, (303)987-8687. Come explore this popular trail and find out what birds are lingering into summer's bittersweet fade. Half-day trip, 0800-1200, easy hiking; bring water and snacks, and layers for weather. This is a space-limited trip; you must register with Niña in advance.

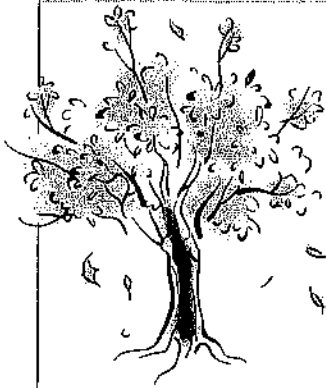
Saturday, September 25 Rocky Mountain Arsenal

Leader: Dave Rhoades, (303)424-8633. Time of trip: 0800-1300. Meet Leader at the Visitors' Center for a guided exploration of this premier bird habitat. Bring water and snacks, lunch optional. You must register with Dave in advance as this is a space-limited trip.

Sunday, September 26 Pueblo area and Fountain Creek

Leader: Paul Slingsby, (303)422-3728. Meet Leader at 0700 at the SE corner of the parking lot by The Great Indoors, Yosemite St. at C-470: from I-25 exit County Line Rd. and go west to Yosemite, and follow Yosemite as it curves around to the last right-hand turn before C-470. Full day trip, easy hiking. Bring lunch, water, and a scope and two-way radio if you have them. Please be sure to register with Paul beforehand.

Denver Fall Bird Count



Denver has conducted Fall Bird Counts for over 20 years. Denver Field Ornithologists and ASGD sponsor this tradition. No fees, but some sites require a state parks pass or pre-registration. Bring binoculars, scopes for the reservoir counts, field guide, and lunch.

Everyone invited and welcome to help – more eyes see more birds.

Friday, Sept. 10

Cherry Creek Reservoir

Leader: Bob Brown, 303-791-6204. Meet at 0700 at Marina, inside west gate near Cherry Creek High School. State Parks Pass required.

Saturday, Sept. 11

Waterton, downstream..

Leader: Hugh Kingery, 303-641-8823

4-5 mile hike - wear long pants (not shorts) due to bare-leg-unfriendly plants such as poison ivy, thistles, and knapweed. Meet at 0630 at Audubon Nature Center (left turn immediately after turning onto Waterton/Roxborough road and before the DOW parking lot for Waterton Canyon).

Chatfield State Park

Leader, Joey Kellner, 303-978-1748. Meet at 0630 at West (Deer Creek) entrance to park. State Parks Pass required.

Barr Lake State Park. This is a ten-mile (or equivalent), all-day hike around the lake

Leader: Dick Schottler, 303-278-8035. Meet at 0630 at RMBO, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane. South off Bromley Lane; from I-76, first road east of railroad track. State Parks pass required.

Lower Bear Creek & Marston Reservoir

Leader: Bob Andrews, 303-249-5220, raconamaz@yahoo.com. Meet at 0630 at parking lot adjacent to the Conoco Station at the NE corner of Morrison Road and C470. We will bird Bear Creek Lake Park and the Bear Creek Greenbelt in the morning and Marston Reservoir in the afternoon.

Sunday Sept. 12

Barr Lake periphery.

Leader: Dick Anderson, 303-757-4582. This trip, mostly driving, does not involve much walking and will be good for people with limited mobility or stamina. Phone leader before Aug. 18 or after Sept. 8, or send email to him at rholesanderson@earthlink.net. Meet at 0700 at Barr Lake Entrance Station.

Castlewood Canyon State Park

Leader: Kirk Huffstater, 303-660-9298. Meet at 0630 at the Homestead. From CO 86, 0.5 miles west of Franktown, turn south on Castlewood Canyon Road, go two miles to old entrance; Homestead is first parking lot on the left. State Parks pass required.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

Leader: Urling Kingery, 303-641-8823. Call leader to sign up; spaces available on waiting list.

DFO Meeting Presentations

In 1998 Rich Levad, Jason Beason's predecessor, became the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory's (RMBO) Special Monitoring Projects Coordinator and among his many research projects, he began a survey of Black Swift colonies in Colorado. Since that time RMBO and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) have conducted an extensive inventory of Black Swifts in Colorado, and as of 2006 had confirmed breeding at an amazing 88 locations throughout the mountains of the state. This total represents almost HALF of the known breeding sites for this species throughout its range which extends from Costa Rica to Alaska. This inventory has allowed scientists to estimate the current Colorado Black Swift population at somewhere between 1000 and 1600 birds.

Through RMBO's partnership with the USFS over 100 Black Swifts have been banded in Colorado (more than in any other state). Recaptures at these banding sites have increased knowledge about natal dispersal, longevity, and site fidelity of the species. However, the migration of the Black Swift remains the least understood of all species that breed in the contiguous United States. Four light-level geolocators were placed on Black Swifts in 2009. These geolocators may reveal information about the bird's migration routes, including their winter destination. RMBO has been recapturing Black Swifts this summer (2010) and hopes to collect at least one of the geolocators so an important information gap for this elusive species can be filled.

Additional research conducted by RMBO and the USFS has obtained temperature and humidity information at Black Swift breeding sites throughout the southern Rocky Mountain Region. This information will be critical to guide land managers in their decision making process regarding climate change models and land management.

September's DFO speaker is Jason Beason, the current Special Monitoring Projects Coordinator for RMBO. Jason received a BS from The Ohio State University (1990) where he majored in Natural Resources. After college, he moved out west and became interested in the creatures with feathers. His obsession allowed him to participate in many different projects in 10 western states. He is proud of the fact that he has conducted bird surveys in locations as remote as the Frank Church Wilderness Area in Idaho and as urban as "the strip" in Las Vegas, Nevada. Currently he assists with inventory and monitoring of several of Colorado's low-density species at the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. Jason and his wife, Kerry, and two children own and operate a small farm near Paonia, Colorado (Rain Crow Farm). They have recorded 168 species of birds on their yard list! They welcome visitors and their yard is included on the Colorado Birding Trail (<http://www.coloradobirdingtrail.com/>).

For additional information on Black Swifts read Steve Boyle's article in the *Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas* (pgs. 236-237, 1998); Sue Hirshman's article (see above); Kim Potter's article in the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* (vol. 31, pgs. 187-189, 1997); or Donald Davis's Black Swift article in the *Journal of the Colorado Field Ornithologists* (vol. 33, pgs. 91-93, 1999). Jason's lecture on these uncommon birds of Colorado will certainly be interesting and informative, so mark your calendars for Monday, September 27th!

Monday, August 23, 2010 (4th Monday, NOT last Monday)

Ted Floyd -- Listening in the Dark: Insights from Colorado

DFO's Fall season starts with a bang bringing Ted Floyd back to the podium to discuss "avian nightlife" -- all the fascinating things birds do at night. We will learn how to identify birds by their nocturnal vocalizations, and we will learn how the new field of "nocturnal field ornithology" is leading to unexpected and important conservation applications. **Warning: birding at night is thoroughly addictive; as a result of attending Ted's presentation, you may find yourself increasingly sleep deprived during the nighttime hours, not wanting to miss out on any of the thrills of nocturnal field ornithology.**

* CHANGE OF MEETING DATE *

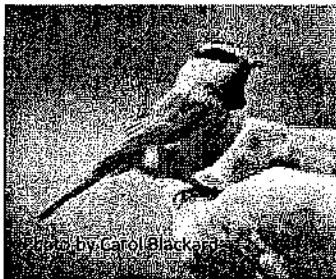
Tuesday, October 19, 2010 - Scott Rashid and Small Mountain Owls

Scott lives in Estes Park and will share his experiences studying, banding, painting, and writing about Colorado's small mountain owls, and will share his new book on the subject.

The Denver Field Ornithologists monthly meetings are held in Ricketson Auditorium at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science in City Park. These meetings are free and open to the public and occur on the 4th Monday of each month August through April (except December). Park on the north side of the Museum and walk around and enter through the Museum's west doors. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. Plan to arrive by 7:15 p.m.; DOORS OPEN BY 7:00 AND ARE LOCKED AT 7:30 P.M. If late, you can enter through the security/volunteer entrance on the north side of the building, but this does create problems for our hosts at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

What's in a Name?

Yellow finches are always a treat to see and we enjoy American and Lesser around these parts. Not so with Lawrence's – we need a southwest trip for them. This bird was named for George Newbold Lawrence, (1806 – 1895) a wholesale pharmaceutical businessman and amateur ornithologist. He assisted S.F. Baird and J. Cassin on Pacific surveys, reporting on waterbirds. Mr. Lawrence also worked as a volunteer at the Smithsonian describing the birds collected from these surveys. His own collection of 8,000 skins was left to the American Museum of Natural History. Mr. Lawrence has over half a dozen birds named after him including the Latin name of the dusky capped flycatcher.



With a quick trip to our local mountains we can see and hear Bailey's Chickadee. Does that name ring a bell? We know the bird by its alternate name – Mountain Chickadee and it was named in honor of Mrs. Florence Augusta Bailey nee Merriam in 1908. This admirable woman helped change early ornithology with the concept of using binoculars instead of a shotgun! She was also a staunch opponent of feathers and stuffed birds as decoration for women's hats. Right on! Mrs. Bailey was a respected and noted author of multiple and well received books on birds and became the first woman Fellow of AOU in 1929. She was awarded the AOU's Brewster Medal in 1931, again, the first woman for that achievement

because of her comprehensive book *Birds of New Mexico*. Ms. Bailey was one of the most respected early female ornithologists and I think of her when I see her chickadee.

Good birding to all, Niña

To the Editor

I am not sure of the process, but you may be interested to know that last Friday about 5:40 PM several of us saw a roadrunner--a roadrunner-- on 17th street between Broadway and Lincoln Streets in downtown Denver. Several of us saw him as we were waiting for the light to change.

Hope he didn't get squashed by a bus. Newell Grant



Saturday, August 28th 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Old Stone House at Barr Lake in Brighton (from I-76, take the Bromley Lane exit east, turn right on Lark Bunting Lane, and follow the road to the Old Stone House)

- Bird banding
- Guided bird walks (English and Spanish)
- Kids' games and crafts
- Silent and live auction
- Live raptors
- Vendors
- Workshops on: bird sketching—(pre-registration required), birding by ear, grassland birds, digiscoping, and landscaping for birds
- And of course, the barbeque! Lunch is at noon.

RMBO Members \$10, Non-members \$12, Children \$5 (age 5 and under free)

Please RSVP by Aug. 25 at 303-659-4348 ext. 12, or karri.claridge@rmbo.org.

For more details, visit us at www.rmbo.org

Bad News from our Scottish Club Birders

Scottish seabird numbers take a dive



Kittiwakes are one of three species of Scottish seabirds facing an almost 40% decline

Three types of Scottish seabirds have seen their numbers nearly halved in the past decade, according to a report. The Joint Nature Conservation Committee study outlined a population drop of about 40% among Kittiwakes, Fulmars and Herring Gulls over the past ten years.

The committee, which advises the UK and devolved governments, said lack of food was the most likely cause due to climate change and human activity. RSPB Scotland said it was a "worrying trend."

Rory Crawford, a policy officer with the organisation, said it was necessary to build "resilience" into seabird populations. He said: "With the impacts of climate change becoming evident the new Scottish Marine Act needs to play a crucial role in building this resilience." "Importantly, it promises to create marine protected areas in key locations for marine wildlife." He added: "If this breeding season turns out to be another disastrous one for sensitive species like Kittiwakes, then it's the starkest warning yet that we must implement these new laws as a matter of urgency." The RSPB suggested that the worst affected areas are the Northern Isles where there were breeding problems for species like the Arctic Tern and Guillemot. Its initial figures this year from Orkney and Shetland suggested many seabirds were struggling because of a lack of sand eels - their main food-source.

Puffin colony's in St. Kilda future is in doubt



A disastrous breeding season has led to fears over the future of a famous puffin colony in the Outer Hebrides.

A recent survey of puffin colonies found that in St Kilda substantial numbers of chicks had starved to death. St Kilda is a world heritage site and considered the most important seabird breeding station in northwest Europe. However, the birds' staple diet, sand eels, appeared to be moving away to cooler waters which some experts blamed on global warming.

This meant that mother birds were having to feed chicks on pipefish, which were difficult to eat because of their size and had little nutritional value. In the past, fledging weights of puffins have been generally about 250g, whereas the recent average weight was 157g. It is thought that only 26% of hatched chicks are surviving this season, compared to a normal survival rate of about 70%.

A marine warden described large numbers of "dead, downy chicks scattered on the ground" during a weekend survey on the small island of Dun which is part of St Kilda. Sarah Money, the St Kilda ranger, said: "Puffins are usually one of the more robust of the seabirds, finding alternative sources of food when other birds struggle, so this is a really worrying sign that something is going badly wrong with the health of our seas." An RSPB spokesman said he feared a repeat of the seabird devastation of the North Sea, Orkney and Shetland.

July Field Trip Summaries

Jul 2, Saturday *Genesee Mountain Park (GEN)*

Leader(s): Kathanne Lynch. **Observers:** Diane Carter, Merikay Haggerty, Warren Finch, Mark Wallace, Step Wilson, and five people from Evergreen Audubon. **Time:** 0800-1200. **Distance:** 8 miles by car, ½ mile on foot. **Habitat:** Ponderosa pine, montane meadow, elevation 7700-8284'. **Weather:** Cloudy, 69-75°F, west wind, 5-10mph. **Totals:** 27 species, 136 individuals.

Jul 3-5, Sat-Mon *North Park (NOR)*

Leader: Chuck Lowrie. **Observers:** 9. **Time:** Varied. **Distance:** Varied. **Totals:** 75 species, 1317 individuals.

Jul 10, Saturday *Lyons Area (LYO)*

Leader: Raymond Davis. **Observers:** Edie Israel, Warren Finch, Yvonne Parrott, Stan Wolson, Rick Pratt, Fi Rust, Terry and Cathy Benjamin, Sally Collins, John Barr, Cheri Orwiz, Barbara Hoover, Bob Spencer, Derek Hankins, Chester and Barbara ?, Patti O'Neill, Sue Clasen, Monna Krebs, Jim Fischer, Karol Buckley. **Time:** 0830-1230. **Distance:** 12 miles by car. **Totals:** 51 species, 201 individuals.

Jul 11, Sunday *Brainard Lake (BRA)*

Leader: Joanna Chan, Chishun Kwong. **Observers:** Bill Butter, Mary Katz, Michael Kiessig, Jamie Mullin, Marilyn Rhodes, Kiki Widjaja, Step Wilson. **Time:** 0800-1500. **Distance:** 5 miles by car, ½ mile on foot. **Habitat:** Spruce/fir, montane lakes, elevation 9000-10000'. **Weather:** Sunny, 80°F, calm. **Totals:** 40 species, 273 individuals.

Jul 16, Friday *Filius Park and Bergan Park (FIL)*

Leader: Lynn Willcockson. **Observers:** Joe and Corrinne Bartell, Bob Buttery, David Chartier, Sue and Don Clasen, Patty Echelmeyer, Merikay Haggerty, Bob and Mary South. **Time:** 0730-0930. **Distance:** 5 miles by car. **Habitat:** Foothills pine and aspen, elevation 7880'. **Weather:** Clear, 70°F, wind 0-15mph. **Totals:** 22 species, 61 individuals.

Jul 17, Saturday *Lair O'the Bear Open Space Park (LAI)*

Leader(s): Bob Andrews. **Observers:** Susan Bullers, Will Burt, Roberta Chase, Mary Geder, Cyndy Johnson, Gwen Kelaidis, Kathanne Lynch, Lou Mazzola, Shannon Reiss, Mark Wallace, Kiki Widjaja, Mary Zick. **Time:** 0630-1200. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian narrow-leaved cottonwood/boxelder, hillside mountain mahogany/ponderosa pine/douglas fir, elevation 6700'. **Weather:** Clear, 60s-mid80s°F, calm. **Totals:** 34 species, 133 individuals.

Jul 18, Sunday *Rocky Mountain National Park (ROC)*

Leader(s): Ed Holub. **Observers:** Tom Bunker, Robert and Jackie Heyda, Jeanne Howell, Mark Wallace. **Time:** 0800-1500. **Distance:** 24 miles by car, 3½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Mountain forest and meadows, streams, marsh, elevation 8500'. **Weather:** Mild to warm, clear to partly cloudy, 70-85°F. **Totals:** 39 species, 160 individuals.

Jul 24, Saturday *O'Fallon Park (OFA)*

Leader(s): Alison Kondler. **Observers:** Lou Mazzola, Peggy and Derek Hankins, Diane Carter, Linda Knudsen, Dave Hill, Cynthia Madsen, Chuck Lowrie, Step Wilson, Edie Israel, Kiki Widjaja, Ed Fulong, Peggy Gordon, Kathanne Lynch, Michael Kiessig. **Time:** 0730-1130. **Distance:** 2½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Mixed forest, meadow, river. **Weather:** Partly cloudy, 65-75°F. **Totals:** 29 species, 125 individuals.

Jul 25, Sunday *Pine and Cheesman Area (PIN)*

Leader(s): Chris A Blakeslee. **Observers:** Jay Buerger, Jim Duggan, Mary Geder, Cyndy Johnson, Gwen Kelaidis, Judy Lane, Nina Routh, Tim Smart, Mark Wallace. **Time:** 0730-1600. **Distance:** 25 miles by car, 4 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Mountain riparian (river, stream lake), meadow, mixed conifer, and the Hayman Forest Fire area (ponderosa pine), elevation 6600-8400'. **Weather:** Clear to partly cloudy, 70-85°F, wind 0-12mph. **Totals:** 51 species, 351 individuals.

Jul 31, Saturday *Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)*

Leader(s): Mary Keithler. **Observers:** 8. **Time:** 0730-1145. **Distance:** 5 miles. **Totals:** 42 species, 422 individuals.

July Field Trip Summaries

Tuesday Birders

Jul 6 *Stapleton Park – Selby's Feeder, Braille Trail and Genesee Park (STA)*

Leader(s): Else van Erp, Mary Keithler. **Observers:** 28 (two groups). **Time:** 0830-1330. **Distance:** 4 miles by car, 2½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, ponderosa pine woodland, elevation 7200'-7600'. **Weather:** Sunny, 62-88°F, calm. **Totals:** 35 species, 164 individuals.

Jul 13 *Squaw Pass, Echo Lake, Mt. Goliath Visitor Center*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 21. **Time:** 0830-1230. **Distance:** 22 miles by car, 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Lodgepole, spruce, aspen, bristlecone pine, small lake, open meadow, elevation 7230-10,650'. **Weather:** Sunny to cloudy, 68-78°F, wind variable, 0-7 mph, gusts to 20 mph. **Totals:** 32 species, 114 individuals.

Jul 20 *Maxwell Falls (MAX)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Else van Erp. **Observers:** 25 (two groups). **Time:** 0830-1330. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, pine, spruce and aspen, elevation 7700-8400'. **Weather:** Mostly cloudy, 63-68°F, wind variable, 3-7 mph. **Totals:** 22 species, 77 individuals.

Jul 27 *Pine Valley Ranch Jeffco Open Space Park (PIN)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Else van Erp. **Observers:** 26 (two groups). **Time:** 0830-1300. **Distance:** 4 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Mixed conifer forest, streamside willow, lake, burn area, ponderosa pine, blue spruce, Douglas fir and grassy meadows, elevation 6821'-7200'. **Weather:** Sunny to cloudy, 68-89°F, variable wind 0-5 mph. **Totals:** 32 species, 155 individuals.

GULF WELL DEAD?—CONCERN FOR BIRDS AND HABITAT STILL ALIVE AS FOCUS SHIFTS TO RESTORATION

Audubon Plans Long Term Monitoring To Assess Impact on Birds

New York, NY, August 4, 2010 - Despite the major movement toward the permanent capping of the Macondo well (the remnant of BP's Deepwater Horizon oil platform explosion), concern about the disaster's long-term toll on birds and their habitat remains very much alive.

"This hasn't been the avalanche of oiled-bird deaths that many remember from the Exxon Valdez disaster, but that doesn't mean we're home free," said National Audubon Society Director of Bird Conservation, Dr. Greg Butcher. "But this is a very different kind of spill than we've seen before and the impact is not as clear. Species that breed in the Gulf and others that migrate along the Central and Mississippi flyways still face a potentially serious toll and need our help."

Parts of many nesting islands and important habitats—including Audubon-designated Important Bird Areas across the Gulf—are still fouled by oil and remain susceptible to unknown amounts that remain on or below the surface of water. While much has disappeared from view, scientists say some oil will persist for weeks or longer; they remain uncertain of the threat it poses beach and marsh habitats that provide breeding grounds and stop-over sites for scores of bird species. There remains serious concern about the oil's impact on the marine food chain vital to birds and other Gulf species.

"It's great that they're close to finally killing the well, but it's a mistake to assume that means the birds got off easy," said Butcher. "This disaster awakened us to the importance of caring for the health of the Gulf and of habitat across America—we can't slip back into complacency just because the oil stopped flowing."

Heartbreaking images of oiled birds, including the brown pelican—just removed from the Endangered Species List—raised public awareness and concern, but tell only told part of the story. Unseen and uncounted in seemingly low casualty figures are birds that simply disappeared below the water and those that could not be recovered without risk to healthy birds. Audubon sightings of oiled birds and their young on islands in Barataria Bay and other Gulf locales suggest that many more will succumb to a variety of stresses, from poisoning to inadequate parenting—whole generations could still be lost. Only time will reveal the spill's impact of the on many species. And only extensive efforts to protect their Gulf habitats and others can aid their long-term prognosis.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

PRESIDENT

Charles Thornton-Kolbe, 2284 S Josephine Street, Denver CO 80210, 303.777.7588
Charles@pibird.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Lynn Willcockson, 2698 S Niagara, Denver CO 80224 303.757.7000
lynnliz2698@aol.com

TREASURER

Bob Shade, 9353 W Nevada Place, Lakewood CO 80226-3029, 303.975.2476
WRSHADE3@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Niña Routh (10) nrouth@copper.net

DIRECTORS

Alison Kondler (13) fieldbirder@msn.com
Rick and Connie Steinkamp (12)
ricconcal@comcast.net
John Drummond (12)
jxdrummo@aol.com
Carol Blackard (11)
carol-blackard@comcast.net
Ira Sanders (11) greatauk@msn.com
Chris Blakeslee (10) chrisabla@aol.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742 303.771.3431
mcburger3@juno.com

HISTORIAN

Warren Finch, 303.233.3372

FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS

Patty Echelmeyer, 303.233.4947,
Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct
Jackie King, 303.287.1644,
Feb, May, Aug, Nov
Meredith Anderson, 303.280.8576
Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec

Lark Bunting Editor/Webmaster

Veronica Holt, 303.646.3829
veronicaholt@Q.com

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, trip reports from the previous month, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome and openly solicited. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80232, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net.

Additional Reports

Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 1221 E Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128 dacbcCook@comcast.net

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, cris@pcisys.net

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson meander303@mac.com

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303-771-1421, email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is back-up contact person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email d_d_hill@comcast.net.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy. Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Rare Bird Alert: With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sighting of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site](#).

Denver Field Ornithologists 2010 Membership Application

Please
indicate: ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st.

- ☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00
- ☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00
- ☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

For those who wish to have the field trip reports mailed to them, rather than downloading from the DFO web site, please add an additional \$10 to your regular membership.

☐ Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund \$ _____

DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Electronic Lark Bunting Email address: _____

Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE SEPTEMBER 2010 DFO

DATE	18	19	25	26	
LOCATION	ROC	LAI	RMA	PUE	TOT
Canada Goose			12	26	38
Wood Duck				35	35
Gadwall			10		10
American Wigeon			13	2	15
Mallard			8	33	41
Northern Shoveler			12		12
Redhead			6		6
Ring necked Duck			4		4
Common Merganser			1		1
Ruddy Duck			4		4
Pied billed Grebe			36	1	37
Double crested Cormorant			20	7	27
Green Heron				1	1
Black crowned Night Heron			1		1
Turkey Vulture			1	14	15
Osprey				2	2
Northern Harrier				1	1
Sharp shinned Hawk			1		1
Cooper's Hawk				3	3
Swainson's Hawk			6		6
Red tailed Hawk	1	2	8	2	13
Ferruginous Hawk			4		4
American Kestrel			2	1	3
Prairie Falcon			1		1
American Coot			106		106
Killdeer				5	5
Spotted Sandpiper				1	1
Ring billed Gull				8	8
Eurasian Collared Dove				6	6
Mourning Dove			6	4	10
Great Horned Owl				1	1
Burrowing Owl			1		1
Calliope Hummingbird		1			1
Belted Kingfisher			2	5	7
Downy Woodpecker		1		10	11
Hairy Woodpecker	2				2
American Three toed Woodpecker	1				1
Northern Flicker	2	3	11	8	24
Western Wood Pewee				2	2
Black Phoebe				2	2
Say's Phoebe			2	1	3
Northern Shrike			1		1
Warbling Vireo				1	1
Steller's Jay	3				3
Blue Jay				4	4
Black billed Magpie	3		6		9
Clark's Nutcracker	1				1
American Crow		3		1	4

Common Raven			2		2
Horned Lark			4		4
Barn Swallow	1	5	3	20	29
Black capped Chickadee	8	5		14	27
Mountain Chickadee	4	9		3	16
Red breasted Nuthatch	5			1	6
White breasted Nuthatch		1		7	8
Pygmy Nuthatch	1	5		2	8
Brown Creeper				2	2
Rock Wren			5		5
House Wren		2			2
American Dipper		1			1
Ruby crowned Kinglet	5			1	6
Townsend's Solitaire		2			2
American Robin	16	10		20	46
European Starling			30	41	71
Cedar Waxwing				12	12
Yellow Warbler				9	9
Yellow rumped Warbler	1		4		5
Wilson's Warbler	4	1		3	8
Green tailed Towhee	2		1		3
Spotted Towhee		2		1	3
Chipping Sparrow	12		1		13
Clay colored Sparrow			1		1
Brewer's Sparrow	1		1		2
Vesper Sparrow		2	7		9
Song Sparrow		3			3
Lincoln's Sparrow	3				3
White crowned Sparrow	2		8		10
Dark eyed Junco	28		4		32
Western Tanager		2		2	4
Red winged Blackbird				1	1
Western Meadowlark			9		9
House Finch	3	2	5	17	27
Red Crossbill	1				1
Lesser Goldfinch		1		3	4
American Goldfinch		2	1		3
House Sparrow				14	14
TOTAL	110	65	371	360	

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE SEPTEMBER 2010 TUESDAY BIRDERS

SPECIES					
DATE	7	14	21	28	
LOCATION	BAR	CHE	BEA	PRO	TOT
Canada Goose	50		6	109	165
Gadwall	4			8	12
American Wigeon	10			2	12
Mallard	20	60	16	25	121
Blue winged Teal		18	2		20
Northern Shoveler				1	1
Green winged Teal		12			12
Ring necked Duck			1		1
Ruddy Duck	9		2		11
Pied billed Grebe		7	1	3	11
Horned/Eared Grebe		10			10
Western Grebe	39	4	1		44
American White Pelican	31	88			119
Double crested Cormorant	125	18	30	7	180
Great Blue Heron	3	8			11
Great Egret	2				2
Snowy Egret	3	34			37
Black crowned Night Heron				1	1
White faced Ibis	1				1
Turkey Vulture		3	2		5
Osprey		1			1
Cooper's Hawk		1	1		2
Swainson's Hawk	4	1			5
Red tailed Hawk	1		4		5
American Kestrel		1	1	1	3
Sora		2			2
American Coot		50	4	3	57
Killdeer	13	15	1	1	30
American Avocet	12				12
Spotted Sandpiper			1		1
Wilson's Snipe		1			1
Sabine's Gull			1		1
Ring billed Gull	50	140	4	26	220
California Gull	1	36			37
Black Tern			1		1
Forster's Tern		1			1
Rock Pigeon		1	4		5
Eurasian Collared Dove			4		4
Mourning Dove	2	2	3	4	11
Belted Kingfisher		3	1	2	6
Downy Woodpecker		3	1	6	10
Hairy Woodpecker				2	2
Northern Flicker		8	5	10	23
Western Wood Pewee	3	1	3		7
Dusky Flycatcher	1				1
Say's Phoebe			3		3
Western Kingbird	3	8			11

Loggerhead Shrike			1		1
Warbling Vireo	3			2	5
Blue Jay			2	3	5
Black billed Magpie	1	22	20	3	46
American Crow	4	42	6	4	56
Tree Swallow			2		2
Barn Swallow		7	8		15
Cliff Swallow				1	1
Black capped Chickadee		7	16	14	37
Red breasted Nuthatch		2		1	3
White breasted Nuthatch		3	3	4	10
Brown Creeper				4	4
Rock Wren	1	1			2
House Wren	2				2
Blue gray Gnatcatcher		1			1
Swainson's Thrush	2				2
American Robin	7	3	3	3	16
European Starling	9	7	12	10	38
Tennessee Warbler				9	9
Orange crowned Warbler	1				1
Yellow Warbler	3				3
Yellow rumped Warbler		2	19	25	46
MacGillivray's Warbler				1	1
Common Yellowthroat	2				2
Wilson's Warbler	9		1	14	24
Spotted Towhee			1		1
Chipping Sparrow	1	2			3
Vesper Sparrow		2	5		7
Lark Sparrow			1		1
Song Sparrow			1	7	8
White crowned Sparrow			1		1
Blue Grosbeak	1				1
Red winged Blackbird		42	6	11	59
Western Meadowlark			2		2
Yellow headed Blackbird			20		20
Brewer's Blackbird			21		21
Bullock's Oriole			1		1
House Finch		4	1	11	16
Lesser Goldfinch		4	1		5
American Goldfinch		12	1		13
House Sparrow	1				1
TOTAL	434	700	258	338	



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

OCTOBER 2010

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Volume 45, Number 10

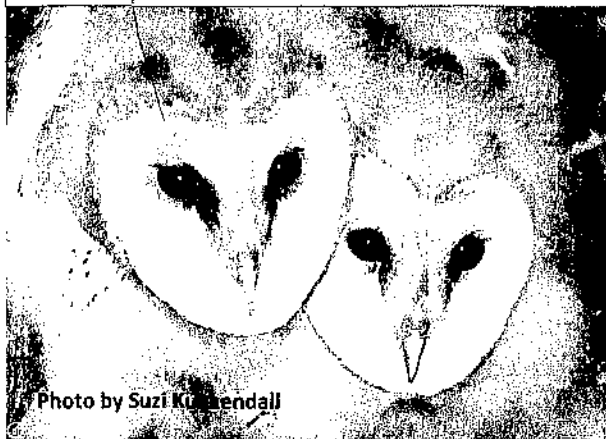


Photo by Suzi K. Kendall

DFO Meeting for Tuesday, October 19, 2010 Scott Rashid and Small Mountain Owls (NOTE CHANGE OF DAY AND DATE)

What DFO birder doesn't love owls? We love hearing and seeing Great Horned Owls, Long and Short-eared Owls, Barn and Burrowing Owls; owls hunting, hooting, nesting or resting. We love their silent flight, their blinking yellow or black eyes when they are discovered roosting on a sunny summer day, their expertly camouflaged nests, and their fluffy little owlets.

We think of these efficient predators as creatures of the night, and most of Colorado's owls are, though a portion of the world's 200+ species of owls are crepuscular or diurnal. North America is home to 19 species of owls, and as Scott Rashid writes, "10...are considered either medium or large owls, with the largest being more than two feet from head to tail. The rest are considered small, with the smallest being the size of a bluebird."

Continued on page 3



October Field Trips

Saturday, October 2

Cherry Creek State Park

Leader: Bob Brown (303) 791-6204.. Meet at 0730 at West Marina. From Yosemite St. go east on Union Ave. past Cherry Creek High School to park entrance. 1/2 day trip. Lunch optional. Bring scopes for those "far-out" water birds and far-away tree top raptors searching for prey. (State Parks Pass required)

Sunday, October 3

Chatfield State Park

Leader: Ed Holub, (303) 979-2194. Meet at 0730 at swim beach. From C470, take Wadsworth South 1.5 miles to park entrance. Lunch optional, but you may want to stay longer if Ed has other "hot spots" to check out. (Parks Pass required)

Saturday, October 9

Bear Creek Lake Park and possibly Red Rocks

Leader: Mike Henwood (303) 716-8551. Meet at 0730 at park entrance for 1/2 day trip. Carpooling is a good idea (non resident \$5 per car) Can park extra vehicles next to Conoco Station at C470 and Morrison Road. Leftover migrants and probably Fall arrivals.

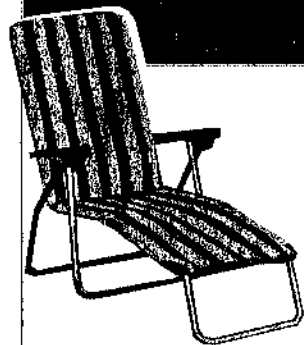
Sunday, October 10

"The Big Sit"

Leader: Joey Kellner (303) 978-1748. (Parks Pass required)

Meeting place: Heron Overlook, Chatfield State Park. From the Wadsworth Blvd entrance, go right at the T and continue around the reservoir, and a half mile after you cross the South Platte River, make a hard left into the large parking lot. At the far right corner, a trail leads down to the Heron Overlook.

"The Big Sit" – an international birding event, has exacting, loose and frivolous standards. "Big Sitters" count all



October Field Trips, continued

the birds they see or hear from within a circle with a 17-foot diameter. Count "Sitters" may send out scouts and beaters to find other birds and identify them as long as a "Sitter" sees the bird from within the circle. All around the world, on this date people will Big Sit!

Come and join Joey Kellner, and other recruits any time after dawn, for an hour, a morning, or all day. Drop by whenever you like or volunteer to substitute for "Big Sit" leaders for an hour or two. (Pre-registration not required) Joey maintains an hourly chart of the birds that "Sitters" see from the circle. In the past four years he has tallied 55-65 species. Bring chairs, breakfast, lunch, dinner, picnics, coffee, etc. Bring binoculars, scopes, field guides, and other essential birding equipment.

Sunday, October 10 ***SPECIAL TRIP for Sprague's Pipits!***

Leader: Norm Erthal (303) 917-2596. Meet for carpooling at Division of Wildlife (6060 N. Broadway) at 0700. Exit off I-25 at 58th – go west to Broadway 2 blocks, then north 2 blocks to parking lot on right. Long, full day trip. Sparrows, longspurs, other prairie species possible. Bring lunch, snacks, water and layers of clothing. Phone or email leader if you plan to go! nerthal@comcast.net

Saturday, October 16 ***Belmar Park***

Leader: Karleen Schofield (303) 936-8661. Meet at 0830 for 3 hour trip on easy, level paths. Go west off Wadsworth at Ohio St. Drive straight ahead and turn right into parking lot near the lake. This special, enthusiastic leader enjoys sharing her urban treasure of an area!

Sunday, October 17 ***Lair o' the Bear Open Space Park***

Leader: Norm Lewis (303) 988-5544. Meet at 0800 at the parking lot for ½ day trip. Bring water and snacks and dress for changeable weather. Go 4 miles west of Morrison on CO 74 through Morrison to park entrance on left. Easy walking along Bear Creek. Good picnic spots if you bring lunch.

Saturday, October 23 ***Rocky Mountain Arsenal***

Leader: David Rhoades (303) 424-8633. Must register with leader for time and directions for this popular trip. David keeps tabs on the comings, and goings of the Arsenal's many species. Space limited!

Sunday, October 24 ***Fort Collins Area***

Leaders: Toni Rautus (303) 422-7322 and Paul Slingsby (303) 422-3728. Meet at 0700 to carpool at Division of Wildlife (see Oct 10 for directions) Call leader if coming. All day trip – bring lunch, walkie-talkies and layers of clothing.

Saturday, October 30 ***McCabe Meadows Park***

Leader: Buzz Schaumberg (303) 699-1721. Meet leader at 0730 at the Nature Center. From Main intersection in Parker, go south on Parker Road (CO 83) for 1.2 miles. Turn right on Indian Pipe Lane to parking lot on right. ½ day trip to former Parker Regional Park.

Sunday, October 31 ***Carson Nature Center and South Platte Park***

Leader: Mary Keithler (303) 771-1421. Meet at 0800 for ½ day trip- lunch optional. It's Halloween – let's see we what we can scare up! North of Mineral Avenue, west of Santa Fe Drive, behind Aspen Grove Shopping Center.

DFO Meeting Presentations, continued

The large owls are amazing, but the small mountain owls are even more wonderful in the eyes of many birders. Colorado is home to the tiny Flammulated Owl, one of Colorado's most common migratory birds of prey in some areas; the aggressive predator the Northern Pygmy-Owl; the very approachable Northern Saw-whet Owl; and finally the higher altitude Boreal Owl. Many owl encounters are pure serendipity, but the hope of experiencing small owls in the wild can cause otherwise sane birders to rush off into the veil of darkness, stumbling over fallen tree trunks and downed branches, or to plow through deep snow up steep hillsides in hopes of catching a glimpse of one of these magical little birds.

Scott Rashid fell under their spell with his first sighting of a Great Horned Owl over 25 years ago. He moved to Colorado in 1989 and began banding, photographing, and studying birds with a passion. He has worked on species as diverse as rosy finches, Band-tailed Pigeons, Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, American Kestrels, Northern Goshawks and small owls. Shortly after his arrival in Colorado he started assisting a researcher with his work on Boreal Owls and a number of other native bird species. This led Scott to undertake his own study of Northern Pygmy Owls. It has grown from there...

In 2002 he illustrated Scott Roederer's book *Birding Rocky Mountain National Park*. His illustration of the Wilson's Snipe graces the cover of the *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*. When painting hawks and owls, Scott works primarily in watercolor, and numerous of his works of art are found in private collections throughout North America and Europe. Scott lives in Estes Park where he has maintained a banding station at the YMCA of the Rockies since 1997. He focuses much of his work on the birds in and around Rocky Mountain National Park, and has also been a bird rehabilitator.

His most recent work is his book *Small Mountain Owls* which was published in 2009 by Schiffer Publishing Ltd. Here he writes about the lives and distributions of Flammulated, Pygmy, Saw-whet, and Boreal Owls. He covers their anatomy, vocalizations, courtship and nesting behavior, egg laying, hunting habits, diets, longevity, and much more. The book is liberally illustrated with his own photographs and paintings. For the benefit and enjoyment of the DFO audience, Scott will share stories of his work with owls from his 25+ years in the field, and hopefully he will share some secrets for finding these elusive little creatures.

Show up at the October DFO meeting with your copy of *Small Mountain Owls* and Lynn Willcockson will see to it that you get your book autographed by Scott (or by Lynn) that night.

Upcoming Meetings

November 22, 2010: Kevin Cook - Why are hawks and parrots more closely related than are hawks and falcons?

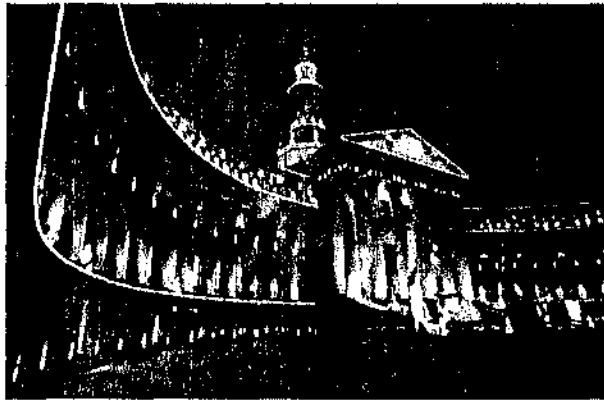
December 2010 **NO DFO MEETING**. Please plan to participate in the Denver Christmas Count and/or as many of the other Christmas Bird Counts around the state as you can!

September 27, 2010: Black Swifts in Colorado with Jason Beason of RMBO

For most Colorado birders the best known Black Swift site is likely beautiful Box Canyon above the picturesque old mining town of Ouray. Ouray is located near the headwaters of the Uncompahgre River in southwestern Colorado. Here one ascends the mountainside southwest of town to find Box Canyon's rushing waterfalls and steep cliff faces which are home to this colony of Black Swifts. There is a metal catwalk which one follows into the dark, damp rock cleft under the falls. Once eyes adjust to this shadowy environment, one soon locates nestlings sitting in small cone-shaped nests made of mud and moss and clinging to the sheer rock face. These young birds are only fed at night and thus they are waiting patiently for evening and the return of the adults which have been out catching flying insects all day for the young birds.

The Denver Field Ornithologists monthly meetings are held in Ricketson Auditorium at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science in City Park. These meetings are free and open to the public and occur on the 4th Monday of each month August through April (except December). Park on the north side of the Museum and walk around and enter through the Museum's west doors. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. Plan to arrive by 7:15 p.m.; DOORS OPEN BY 7:00 AND ARE LOCKED AT 7:30 P.M. If late, you can enter through the security/volunteer entrance on the north side of the building, but this does create problems for our hosts at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

Safe Skies Update



When the Denver City & County Building is decorated with 40,000 floodlights each holiday season, it's regarded as the largest outdoor lighting display in the nation.

Joe Bartell and his Greater Audubon Safe Skies Committee has been actively saving migratory birds for the past couple of years, getting things done and making a difference in our city. Safe Skies is a nationwide effort to stop the deaths of millions of migratory birds each year, many of which fatally crash into skyscraper windows, especially at night. Their approach is to educate businesses and woo government partners. Turning off lights during the night is a win-win-win proposition, saving the lives of warblers and other migratory birds every year, saving utility costs of up to \$250,000 per building or business per year, and reducing air pollution in the process.

Partners joining the effort include National Jewish Hospital which agrees that reducing night lights results in a substantial reduction in air pollution and better health, the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) which provides moral support, and as for more concrete financial support. The American Lung Association of Colorado provided art work and Excel paid for the printing of the project's informational brochure. From the government side, Mayor John Hickenlooper put out a written proclamation supporting the Safe Skies initiative last year, and Colorado State Senator Joyce Foster has promised to introduce a bill in the 2011 legislative session requiring that all state-owned and leased properties extinguish lights at night.

Colorado State Representative Lois Court has also indicated an interest in such a bill. The University of Colorado Hospital and Medical Center has been less responsive; in fact their response was to demand the name of the whistleblower in their midst. In Toronto, a lawsuit against a building owner is underway based on the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty between the US, Canada and Mexico, claiming that light exuding from their building at night is violating the treaty.

To assess the effects of their efforts, committee members drove around the downtown streets at night in June of 2010 (sounds like a new job for Ted the insomniac Floyd) and reported that only 14 buildings had their lights on during the night, a marked improvement over previous years.

Next up: The committee is pressing ahead to educate all citizens on the dangers of residential windows for our feathered friends. Check www.flap.org for information about solutions to this unpleasant aspect of human habitat development.

Carol Blackard

Welcome New Members!

Terry Cookro, 4444 King St, Denver, CO 80211, 303.455.2405
 Jack Ferguson, 400 S. Steele St #38, Denver, CO 80209
 Joann Marshall, 7539 Isabell Cir, Arvada, CO 80007, 303.972.0358
 Bruce & Christopher Neuman, PO Box 150432, Lakewood, CO 80215, 303.980.4495
 Charles Nyholm, 616 Tumbleweed Dr, Brighton, CO 80601, 720.685.7900
 Christine Nyholm, 4728 Haystack LN, Brighton, CO 80601, 303.637.7023
 Jim & Marsha Rouse, 206 E Fair LN, Centennial, CO 80121, 720.283.9028

Thank you to Bob Righter for your donation to DFO Education Endowment Fund

Reminder: DFO members have contributed more than enough to pay the Rare Bird Alert phone bill for many years to come. All donations now go to the Educational Fund.

August Field Trips Summaries

Aug 1, Sunday *Rocky Mountain National Park (ROC)*

Leader(s): Ed Holub. **Observers:** Maureen Blackford, Nelson Ford, Anne Geraghty, Thomas Holub, Cyndy Johnson, Bruce Neuman, Chris Owens, David Pantle, Rick and Connie Steinkamp, Mark Wallace. **Time:** 0800-1500.

Distance: 55 miles by car, 1½ mile on foot. **Habitat:** Tundra, mountain forests and streams, meadows, elevation 8700-12200'. **Weather:** Mostly cloudy, scattered showers in afternoon, 55-78°F, wind 0-1mph. **Totals:** 37 species, 129 individuals. **Highlights:** Olive-sided Flycatcher, Red-naped Sapsucker, Warbling Vireo.

August 8, Saturday *Colorado Springs Area (CO)* Report not available at time of printing.

Aug 9, Sunday *Barr Lake (BAR)*

Leader: Joe Bartell. **Observers:** Ellie Jones, Mary Jane Black, Gail Evans, Sue Schulman, Mary C Burger, Derek Hawkins, Sue Clasen, Don Clasen, Corrinne Bartell. **Time:** 0700-1100. **Distance:** 2 miles by car, 4 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian and lakes, elevation 5200+. **Weather:** Cloudy to partly cloudy, 70-84°F, north-northwest wind, 1-2mph. **Totals:** 50 species, 370 individuals. **Highlights:** Black-crowned Night Heron, Northern Rough-winged Swallow.

Aug 13, Friday *Gregory Canyon and South Mesa Trail (GRE)*

Leader: Paul Slingsby. **Observers:** Maureen Blackford, Pat Hoadley, Walter Knutsen, Linda Knutsen, Debbie Sydon. **Time:** 0730-1200. **Distance:** 2 miles. **Habitat:** Montane riparian environment. **Weather:** Sunny, 80°F, east wind, 5mph. **Totals:** 99 species, 25 individuals. **Highlights:** Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Lazuli Bunting.

Aug 14, Saturday *Cherry Creek State Park*

Leader(s): Mary Burger. **Observers:** Corrinne and Joe Bartell, Bill Buttner, Vicky Hamilton, Pauline Ide, Edie Israel, Ellie Jones, Mary Keithler, Cynthia Madsen, Rose McCoy, Bruce and Chris Neuman, Yvonne Parrett, Sue Schulman, Bob Shade, Anne Somervill, Pam Tittes. **Time:** 0730-1300. **Distance:** 4 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, lake. **Weather:** Cool, 65-73°F, cool breeze. **Totals:** 532 species, 59 individuals. **Highlights:** Ash-throated Flycatcher a Lifer for some of our group. Shore birds: Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpipers, Spotted Sandpipers, Least Sandpipers gave us a good comparison study. At the pond south of the 12-Mile picnic area we got to see Virginia Rails, Snipe, and Long-billed Dowitcher.

Aug 15, Sunday *Chimney Gulch (CHI)* Cancelled.

Aug 21, Saturday *McCabe Meadows, Cherry Creek Reg Trail, Castlewood Canyon (MCC)*

Leader(s): Sue Schulman. **Observers:** Maureen Blackford, Margaret Dunn, Gail Evans, Terry Gurth, Cyndy Johnson, Christopher Neuman, Bruce Neuman, Matt Newport, Andy Spellman, Oliver Spellman, Tanner Spellman. **Time:** 0700-1500. **Distance:** 7 miles by car, 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, meadows, reservoir, elevation 6000-7000'. **Weather:** Hot, 65-92°F, southeast wind, light. **Totals:** 63 species, 405 individuals. **Highlights:** Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Wilson's Phalarope.

Aug 22, Sunday *South Platte Park (SOU)*

Leader(s): Doris Cruze. **Observers:** Laurie Chotena, Pauline Ide, Mary Keithler, Mary Ann Tavery, Peggy Wait, Mark Wallace, Jeannette Wesley, Dennis Wojcicki. **Time:** 0800-1030. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, cottonwood, willows. **Weather:** Warm, sunny, 67-88°F, south-southwest wind, 5-10mph. **Totals:** 26 species, 133 individuals. **Highlights:** Several Spotted Sandpipers, Cedar waxwing, and Goldfinches.

Aug 28, Saturday *Rigli Ranch (RIG)*

Leader(s): Joe Rigli. **Observers:** Bruce Bosley, Cliff and Pauline Ide, Peter Walker. **Time:** 0830-1230. **Distance:** 5 miles by car, 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian woodlands, sandhill-sagebrush, shortgrass prairie, fields, ponds, elevation 4330'. **Weather:** Warm, sunny, clear to partly cloudy in morning, clear in afternoon, wind 0-5mph. **Totals:** 24 species, 217 individuals. **Highlights:** Upland Sandpiper, Orange-crowned Warbler, Brewers Sparrow.

August Field Trip Summaries , continued

Aug 29, Sunday *Northeastern Colorado, Prewitt and Jackson Reservoirs (NOR)*

Leader(s): Joey Kellner. **Observers:** Sondra Bland, Maggie Boswell, Mary Driscoll, John Drummond, Lisa Edwards, Edith Israel, Gwen Keloids, Alison Kondler, Steve Larson, Charlie Lawrence, Randy Lentz, Stuart Liss, Jeannie Mitchell, Bruce Neuman, Christopher Neuman, Mary Ellen Olsen, Dick Schottler, Bob Spencer, Bob Spencer Jr, Jeff Stroup, Kiki Widjaja. **Time:** 0630-1800. **Distance:** 275 miles by car, 2½ miles on foot. **Weather:** Mostly clear to partly cloudy, 56-93°F, south wind, 0-8mph. **Totals:** 98 species, 2306 individuals. **Highlights:** Northern Pintail, White-faced Ibis, Osprey, American Avocet, Long-billed Curlew. Western Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Cassin's Vireo and Townsend's Warbler.

Tuesday Birders

August 3 *Golden Gate State Park (GOL)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Dave Hill. **Observers:** 30 (two groups). **Time:** 0830-1230. **Distance:** 20 miles by car, 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Foothills riparian, montane willow carr, mixed conifer, meadows, elevation 8100-9500'. **Weather:** Clear to cloudy, 62-68°F, wind variable, 0-4 mph. **Totals:** 31 species, 122 individuals.

August 10 *Alderfer/Three Sisters Jeffco Open Space Park (ALD)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell, Else van Erp. **Observers:** 35. **Time:** 0830-1300. **Distance:** 3.7 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, aspen woodland and grassy meadows, elevation 7680-8000'. **Weather:** Sunny, calm, 59-74°F, northeast wind, 0-5 mph. **Totals:** 19 species, 92 individuals.

August 17, 2010 *Flying J Ranch Jeffco Open Space Park*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 20. **Time:** 0830-1300. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Ponderosa and lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, woodland with some meadows, marshy area, pond, elevation 8000' - 8200'. **Weather:** Mostly sunny, 57-74°F, southeast wind, 0-7 mph. **Totals:** 19 species, 105 individuals.

August 24 *Mount Falcon Jeffco Open Space Park (MOU)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Else Van Erp. **Observers:** 32 (two groups). **Time:** 0830-1300. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Foothills scrub, ponderosa pine, juniper and open meadows, elevation 7750-7851'. **Weather:** Misty, foggy to partly sunny, 55-68°F, southeast wind, 0-8 mph. **Totals:** 31 species, 307 individuals.

August 31 *Lair O'the Bear Open Space Park (LAI)*

Leader(s): ?. **Observers:** 45. **Time:** 0830-1300. **Distance:** 3½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, cottonwood, willow, some ponderosa pine and blue spruce, elevation 6427-7361'. **Weather:** Mostly sunny, 58-65°F, east wind, 0-5 mph. **Totals:** 19 species, 141 individuals.



Spice up *The Lark Bunting* with your very own bird story

The DFO members enjoy hearing bird stories from other members. Your DFO Board feels *The Lark Bunting* would be a good place for sharing. We would like to encourage our members to send in short snippets, just one or two paragraphs, about a bird you saw, a hot-spot you have visited, a behavior or habitat you have observed, anything you think might interest your birding colleagues.

If you send them to carol-blackard@comcast.net, or 7802 S. Garfield Way, Centennial, CO 80122, I'll try to get them to Veronica Holt for publishing at the earliest possible opportunity. Please understand that some editing may be necessary for space or clarity.

So Sayeth the Speaker...

August's DFO meeting featured the always informative, always thought provoking Ted Floyd, editor of ABA's *Birding* magazine. Ted's lecture was titled "Birding at Night: The Final Frontier", and was his story of a series of personal birding experiences which have led him to his current level of understanding and expertise in the newest field of ornithology called nocturnal field ornithology. Nocturnal field ornithology is part of a holistic approach to interacting with the natural world. Half the time (during any 12 month period) Colorado is shrouded in darkness, and except for an occasional owling excursion or a moonlight snowshoeing outing, most birders don't venture out after sunset into that other world.

Ted's presentation was broken into four parts:

- 1) How he got started in nocturnal field ornithology,
- 2) What is nocturnal field ornithology and how does one do it,
- 3) What new information has it brought to light (out of the darkness),
- 4) What are the ramifications for bird and bird habitat conservation?

1) How did Ted get started in nocturnal field ornithology? He took us through a series of personal birding experiences which opened up a new world of bird behavior to him. To mention just three, he recounted an experience of listening to large numbers of Gray-cheeked Thrushes ("You will hear more in one hour than you will see in a lifetime," says the eminent Bill Evans) migrating over an oak covered hilltop in Pittsburgh; listening to many more Yellow-breasted Chats singing below the Flatirons than one would ever hear during the daylight hours; and hearing Cassin's Sparrows singing their five note song through the night on the sand sage prairie of El Paso County.

2) What is nocturnal field ornithology and how does one do it? We all hear crickets calling from the bushes at night in the late summer, but nocturnal field ornithology means one must strive to learn the myriad bird calls/songs/noises that can be heard AT NIGHT. Many DFO birders have heard the winnowing Wilson's Snipe or the nocturnal flight call of the Swainson's Thrush as we leave the DMNS after a summer evening's meeting. "Back east" Bill Evans and Michael O'Brien have systematically recorded the nocturnal flight calls of many eastern and Great Lakes state birds (*Flight Calls of Migratory Birds* [CD-Rom] by Evans & O'Brien, www.oldbird.org) (Nathan Pieplow is working on this in Colorado!), but "out west" the night skies were thought to be silent. Until a few years ago, no one was listening. Then Ted started...

To learn a new species' call Ted goes out at night and listens. He continues to listen until dawn when the night calling birds begin to land and can be tracked down on the ground and calls compared. And Ted is aware of patterns of migration and when different species are migrating during a given time period. All this allows him to accurately identify and learn a given bird's nocturnal flight call.

3) What new information can be learned? Simply, nocturnal field ornithology is going to rewrite the field guides by adding to the breadth of knowledge about many species, changing the taxonomy of some, etc. In the last couple of years, thanks to the clarification of midnight childcare issues at home, Ted has turned his ear to the night sky and discovered such surprises as Chipping Sparrows and Upland Sandpipers migrating over Boulder County in mid to late summer. According to the books, they aren't supposed to be doing this. After much diligent work Ted has discovered that our Front Range Chipping Sparrows leave the breeding grounds beginning in July and migrate east to the riparian thickets of the Colorado/Kansas border to molt before continuing south to their wintering grounds. None of the other Chipping Sparrow populations in North America make this nocturnal molt migration.

Also, Ted has discovered that Upland Sandpipers (seldom recorded in Boulder County) migrate over his house in August. Surprisingly, there exists the potential that these sandpipers may be birds which breed in Alaska and are now migrating nonstop to their wintering grounds "down south".

4) Lastly, what are the ramifications for bird and bird habitat conservation? Already land managers are rethinking policies which dictate the use and protection of riparian ecosystems on the Eastern plains of Colorado.

What new information will come to light as more and more birders begin following the nighttime movements of our feathered friends through the dark skies over Colorado?

Submitted by Chris A. Blakeslee

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

PRESIDENT

Charles Thornton-Kolbe, 2284 S Josephine Street, Denver CO 80210, 303.777.7588
Charles@pibird.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Lynn Willcockson, 2698 S Niagara, Denver CO 80224 303.757.7000
lynnliz2698@aol.com

TREASURER

Bob Shade, 9353 W Nevada Place, Lakewood CO 80226-3029, 303.975.2476
WRSHADE3@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Niña Routh (10) nrouth@copper.net

DIRECTORS

Alison Kondler (13) fieldbirder@msn.com
 Rick and Connie Steinkamp (12) ricconcal@comcast.net
 John Drummond (12) jxdrummo@aol.com
 Carol Blackard (11) carol-blackard@comcast.net
 Ira Sanders (11) greatauk@msn.com
 Chris Blakeslee (10) chrisabla@aol.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742 303.771.3431
mcburger3@juno.com

HISTORIAN

Warren Finch, 303.233.3372

FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS

Patty Echelmeyer, 303.233.4947,
 Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct
 Jackie King, 303.287.1644,
 Feb, May, Aug, Nov
 Meredith Anderson, 303.280.8576
 Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec

Lark Bunting Editor

Veronica Holt, 303.646.3829
veronicaholt@Q.com

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, trip reports from the previous month, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome and openly solicited. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.



Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80232, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net.

Additional Reports

Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 1221 E Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128 dacbcocook@comcast.net

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, cris@pcsisys.net

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson meander303@mac.com

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303-771-1421, email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is back-up contact person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email d_d_hill@comcast.net.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy. Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Rare Bird Alert: With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sighting of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site](#).

Denver Field Ornithologists 2010 Membership Application

Please indicate: ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st.

- ☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00
- ☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00
- ☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

For those who wish to have the field trip reports mailed to them, rather than downloading from the DFO web site, please add an additional \$10 to your regular membership.

☐ Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund \$_____

DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Electronic *Lark Bunting* Email address: _____

Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742



Denver Field Ornithologists

The Lark Bunting

NOVEMBER 2010

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 45, Number 11



Photo by Sandra Rapley

DFO Meeting for Tuesday, October 19, 2010 Scott Rashid and Small Mountain Owls (NOTE CHANGE OF DAY AND DATE)

What DFO birder doesn't love owls? We love hearing and seeing Great Horned Owls, Long and Short-eared Owls, Barn and Burrowing Owls; owls hunting, hooting, nesting or resting. We love their silent flight, their blinking yellow or black eyes when they are discovered roosting on a sunny summer day, their expertly camouflaged nests, and their fluffy little owlets.

We think of these efficient predators as creatures of the night, and most of Colorado's owls are, though a portion of the world's 200+ species of owls are crepuscular or diurnal. North America is home to 19 species of owls, and as Scott Rashid writes, "10...are considered either medium or large owls, with the largest being more than two feet from head to tail. The rest are considered small, with the smallest being the size of a bluebird."

The large owls are amazing, but the small mountain owls are even more wonderful in the eyes of many birders.

Continued on page 3

November 2010 Field trips

Saturday, November 6 Along the South Platte

Leader: Doris Cruze, 303-798-8072.

Meet leader at 8:00 at the N.W. corner of the Park-n-Ride parking lot near the Carson Nature Center. Take Santa Fe to Mineral and go west, then north into the RTD park-n-ride. **DO NOT PARK AT THE NATURE CENTER!** Half day trip, possibly more, so lunch optional. Will see many ducks and the eagles may have returned.

Sunday November 7 Longmont Area

Leader, Chris Owens. 303-772-6048

Meet at 8:00 at Jim Hamm Nature Center (From I-25 take exit 240. Go west 4 miles on CO 119 to Boulder-Weld CO. Line Road, then north two miles to park on left at E. 17th Ave.) Will bird until about 2-3P.M. Bring lunch, water and layers for the weather.

Saturday, November 13 Cherry Creek State Park

Leaders: Bob and Lea Ann Brown. 303-791-6204

Meet at 8:00 at the Marina just to the north and below the West entrance. From Yosemite go east on Union Ave. just past the Cherry Creek High School to the west entrance. This will be a half day trip, lunch optional. Some unusual surprises can show up at Cherry Creek. State Parks pass required.

Thursday, November 18 Boulder Area

Leader: Charles Thornton-Kolbe 720-320-1974

Birding Boulder County in Early Winter with Charles Thornton-Kolbe and Fun Loving Bird-Watchers This full day of birding will begin at Walden Ponds and end in the foothills areas around Boulder. In between, we will check

November Field Trips, continued

out several of the area lakes and perhaps a few more Boulder hot spots (hopefully sunny day). We will likely wrap up the day close to 5:30/6:00 before heading back to Denver (and ideally missing any traffic).

No RSVP is required for this trip, and no need to contact the leader. Just show up at one of our two starting locations in Denver (at 8:15 AM) or Westminster (at 8:40 AM). Timely arrival is much appreciated and worth getting there five minutes early.

Two Starting Locations and Times:

- (1) At 8:10 (or earlier) arrive at Colorado Boulevard RTD Station (across street from oil change shop and just east of Kentucky Fried Chicken) just to east of Colorado and Evans in Denver .
- (2) Otherwise arrive at Westminster Center RTD Station at 8:40 AM at 5025 West 88th Place in Westminster at US 36 and 88th Avenue .

Note: We will leave promptly so please be timely and/or a bit early.

Please bring several layers of coats (and including rain coat). Binoculars and scope (if you have one). Gloves and hats may also be necessary. Please bring a sack lunch and beverages of your choice.

Saturday, November 20

S.W Metro Lakes

Leader: Alison Kondler, 303-904-9140.

Meet at 9:00 at Belmar Historic Park – 800 South Wadsworth Blvd. at W. Ohio Ave. Turn west on Ohio Ave and go 2 blocks straight ahead into Irongate parking lot (west of white office building) to the lake. Carpooling from there. We'll visit many lakes in the area, which for some, will be new birding locations. Expect to see great varieties of waterfowl and land birds. Birding until 12:30. **Please call leader if planning to join.**

Sunday, November 21

Chatfield State Park

Leader: Dick Schottler 303-278-8035

Meet leader at 7:30 at the swim beach Parking lot inside west entrance of park off S. Wadsworth, 1 ½ miles south of C-470. State parks pass required.

Sunday, November 28

Pueblo

Leaders: Ira and Tammy Sanders 303-278-7172

Meet leaders at 6:30 at the Safeway on Lincoln, just west of I-25 for a full day of birding. Bring lunch, extra drinking water and come prepared for changes of weather. State parks pass needed. **Please call leaders if planning to join.**

DFO Contributions and Tax Status

The Denver Field Ornithologists tax status has been thoroughly clarified by the IRS. We remain a 501 (c) 3 organization. Thanks to Bob Shade for his work on this matter. Please see membership form for information on how much of your DFO dues are tax deductible.

DFO Meeting Presentations, continued

DFO Meeting for November 22

Kevin Cook – Falcons and Parrots:

Newly Discovered Peculiarities in the Birds' Family Tree

Birds have touched humanity from the beginning. They enchant our myths and fairy tales, they color our cultural aphorisms, they appear as petroglyphs, they motivated exploration, they became fodder of politics, and now they stimulate commerce. Not surprisingly then, three centuries ago the human appetite for knowledge reached for the world of birds and has been pondering that world ever since. But just like life itself, what we know about birds has been evolving. You go to bed one night with the tanagers in one family, and you wake up the next morning and they have been moved to a different family. You leave for a birding trip with the storks and herons mingling as cousins, and you come back to find herons and pelicans have something going. And perhaps only God himself knows what to do with condors...and He's not telling. We have engaged a bloodless intellectual war between factual knowledge and comfortable perception. For example, perception argues that falcons and hawks must be related; but since the 1960s, some ornithologists have argued that falcons and hawks are not related based on certain specific biological evidence. Their arguments fell on ears deafened by the traditions of perception. But now additional evidence corroborates their claims and points to a common ancestry between parrots and falcons. New names and new classifications reflect new knowledge, which means we're not finished learning. Not yet. November's program, "Falcons and Parrots: Newly Discovered Peculiarities in the Birds' Family Tree," will explain the history of bird classification as a



way to interpret current thinking about current knowledge with an eye towards what we can expect next. The program's momentum will move ever forward on the assertion that new knowledge, properly assimilated, enriches the birding experience.

Kevin J. Cook is a writer-naturalist who lives in Fort Collins. He moved to Colorado in 1974 to earn his Bachelor's Degree in biology and chemistry at Western State College and his Master's Degree in wildlife biology at Colorado State University. Since 1975, Kevin has published more than 6,000 pieces of writing; edited almost 1,000 articles for publication in technical journals (including the environmental impact statement for the Mexican Spotted Owl); conducted about 220 birding and general wildlife tours; and taught more than 1,000 seminars on bird, wildflower, mammal, and tree identification plus others on topics as diverse as nature writing, wildlife history, and the development of biogeography. Though passionate about all birds, Kevin has devoted special attention to small owls since receiving his first research grant in 1976. He writes a weekly nature column that appears in two northern Colorado newspapers and has been a columnist and feature writer for *Bird Watcher's Digest* since 1991. He wrote all 325 bird entries for the encyclopedia *Endangered Wildlife of the World* published by Marshall Cavendish in 1993. His writing was paired with Roger Tory Peterson's artwork in Houghton Mifflin's *FlashGuide*, "100 Common Backyard Birds." And his essay, "Shift Your Focus from Birding to Birds," was part of Houghton Mifflin's 2007 book, *Good Birders Don't Wear White: 50 Tips from America's Top Birders*.

Kevin has taught and led trips for Elderhostel, the Rocky Mountain Nature Association, and others, and in the late 1970s he was a ranger naturalist in Everglades National Park. He last appeared in front of the DFO audience in October, 2008, when in the program "An Uncommon Eider" he explained the need and the value of segregating ecological bird catalogs from recreational bird checklists. To learn more about Kevin and his writing and teaching visit his wonderful website www.wildlifewindow.com. December 2010 **NO DFO MEETING**. Please plan to participate in the Denver Christmas Count and/or as many of the other Christmas Bird Counts around the state as you can—details in next month's Lark Bunting!

The Denver Field Ornithologists monthly meetings are held in Ricketson Auditorium at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science in City Park. These meetings are free and open to the public and occur on the 4th Monday of each month August through April (except December). Park on the north side of the Museum and walk around and enter through the Museum's west doors. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. Plan to arrive by 7:15 p.m.; DOORS OPEN BY 7:00 AND ARE LOCKED AT 7:30.

DFO President's Update

DFO Member Surveys and Thank You: Thank you for your responses to our DFO Members' Survey. The DFO Board formally reviewed a summary and analysis of the survey responses at a special strategic planning meeting last month. Based upon your input, the Board is focusing on two improvements for next year and making several other changes. See below.

DFO Board Focusing on Two Key Improvements: Based upon the Member' Survey, the DFO is focusing on improvement efforts on two areas. All DFO members should consider how they can help. Please consider contacting the Board Members (their phone numbers are inside the front cover) identified as leading these efforts and ask how you can help out.

- **Involving More Young People:** Carol Blackard and Lynn Wilcockson are leading this effort, and they are looking for other DFO members to help consider how best to approach this issue with DFO resources
- **Birding Skill Development:** The DFO wants to offer more workshops, seminars and related field trips on helping members and others in the community improve their birding skills. Alison Kondler and Niña Routh are heading this effort up. Other members will be needed to help implement these improvements and to help figure out what we can do with DFO volunteer resources to make this happen.

Second Breeding Bird Atlas: The DFO is now a sponsor of the Second Breeding Bird Atlas, after the DFO Board donated money to support this project.

Trip Scheduling Help: The DFO needs another one or two trip schedulers. Several DFO members are now going to help with this role, but we really need a few more people. This effort takes about four to 10 hours every five to six months (so eight to 20 hours per year of volunteer effort). The trip schedulers call our trip leaders (sometimes recruiting a few new ones) and help get the field trip schedules in place (often two or three months before we offer field trips to members). Please contact me, Charles Thornton-Kolbe, at 303-777-7588 to learn more.

Help with Marketing and Outreach: A DFO Board subcommittee, headed up by Mary Cay Burger and Alison Kondler, needs some volunteer help. Please call these Board members and ask how you can help.

Board Secretary: We need a Board Secretary to take minutes at Board meetings and distribute them by email to Board members. We have three to five Board meetings each year, so this effort will take 12 to 20 hours each year. Please contact me, Charles Thornton-Kolbe, at 303-777-7588 to learn more.

Revisiting DFO Endowment Fund: A committee, headed up by Carol Blackard and including Chris Blakeslee and Connie Steinkamp, is considering the purpose of the DFO endowment fund. They are also trying to develop a more effective process in using these funds to support bird conservation and education. Recommendations are expected to go to the DFO Board in November, but the full process of clarification and consensus building may take a bit longer. They are making excellent progress.

Charles Thornton-Kolbe

Welcome New Members!

Barbara Shissler, 7811 W Alder Dr, Littleton, CO 80128, 303.904.7269

Andy, Oliver, & Tanner Spellman, 17333 Paoli Way, Parker, CO 80134, 303.805.2442

Jeff Stephenson, 5750 W 84th Ave, Arvada, CO, 80003, 303.370.8319

Thank you Audrey Gilden for the donation to Educational Endowment Fund.

Reminder: DFO members have contributed more than enough to pay the Rare Bird Alert phone bill for many years to come. All donations now go to the Educational Fund.

September Field Trips Summaries

Sep 18, Saturday *Rocky Mountain National Park (ROC)*

Leader(s): Chris Owens. **Observers:** Carol Cogswell. **Time:** 0800-1400. **Distance:** 13 miles by car. **Weather:** Partly cloudy, 55°F, calm. **Totals:** 24 species, 110 individuals.

Sep 19, Sunday *Lair O'the Bear Park (LAI)*

Leader: Niña Routh. **Observers:** Karen Bellina, Will Burt, Jim Duggan, Barbara Hoover, Jill Boice, Neil Montague, Bruce Newman, Toni Rautus, Rick and Connie Steinkamp, Nancy Todd, Ashley Thompson, Steve and Kath Smith, Mark Wallace, Paul Slingsby. **Time:** 0800-1200. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, mix coniferous, elevation 7000'. **Weather:** Cool in morning, hot by noon, clear, 55-80°F, west wind, 0-10mph. **Totals:** 22 species, 65 individuals. **Highlights:** We seemed to get only one of certain species that we expected lots of, including goldfinch, nuthatch, woodpeckers, etc. The morning treats included a delightful dipper, two Sibley perfect red-tailed hawks, charming chickadees and juvenile vesper sparrows.

Sep 25, Saturday *Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA)*

Leader: Dave Rhoades. **Observers:** Don Beltz, Mary Burger, Tom Burger, Jeff Cochran, Joyce Dull, Mr. Dull, Evonne Poirrett, Ashley Thompson, Nancy Todd, Kiki Widjaja. **Time:** 0800-1300. **Distance:** 7 miles by car, 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Prairie, lakes, woods, elevation 5250'. **Weather:** Partly cloudy, 60-75°F, light breeze. **Totals:** 43 species, 371 individuals. **Highlights:** Prairie falcon, rock wren, northern shrike, burrowing owl, large rafts of coot, and lots of pied-billed grebes.

Sep 26, Sunday *Pueblo Area (PUE)*

Leader: Paul Slingsby. **Observers:** Bruce Newman, Nina Routh, Toni Rautus, Kiki Widjaja, Debbie Seiden, Jim Duggan, Meredith Anderson, Nelson Ford. **Time:** 0915-1515. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Weather:** Sunny, 80°F, calm. **Totals:** 47 species, 360 individuals.

Tuesday Birders

September 7 *Barr Lake State Park (BAR)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 25. **Time:** 0830-1300. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lake, prairie, reservoir, riparian, cottonwood, willow, cattails, agriculture, elevation 5100-5300'. **Weather:** Mostly sunny, 57-75°F, calm, no wind. **Totals:** (B denotes banded birds) 37 incl 11B species (or, 27 non-banded plus 11B species), 434 individuals (incl 26B individuals) (or, 407 non-banded individuals and 26B individuals).

September 14 *Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)*

Leader: Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 28. **Time:** 0830-1345. **Distance:** 11 miles by car, 1.25 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lake, riparian/cottonwood, wetlands, grasslands, elevation 5550'. **Weather:** Mostly sunny, 63-82°F, southeast wind 0-3 mph. **Totals:** 46 species, 700 individuals.

September 21 *Bear Creek Lake Park (BEA)*

Leader: Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 35 (two groups). **Time:** 0830-1300. **Distance:** 10 miles by car, 4 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Reservoir, riparian, cottonwood, willow, cattails, open fields, elevation 5800'. **Weather:** Mostly sunny, 55-62°F, variable wind, 0-3 mph. **Totals:** 52 species, 258 individuals.

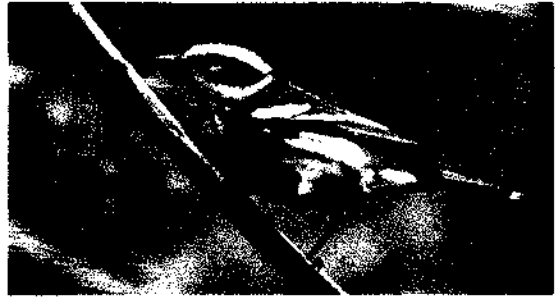
September 28 *Prospect Park Wheat Ridge Greenbelt (PRO)*

Leader(s): Lois Phillips and Else Van Erp. **Observers:** 23 (two groups). **Time:** 0830-1200. **Distance:** 2.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lowland riparian, cottonwood, ponds, willow, cattails, lakes, urban park, elevation 5386'. **Weather:** Sunny, calm, 61-81°F, no wind. **Totals:** 35 species, 338 individuals.

What's in a Name?

Have you seen any Townsend's warblers this fall migration?

It's a marvelous bird named by Thomas Nuttall for John Kirk Townsend (1809 – 1851). Mr. T. was known as an "American naturalist", ornithologist and collector. John Audubon, a birding crony, gave Townsend free rein in naming anything he found – the Solitaire for one and the Bunting for another. Townsend's Junco (alt. Dark Eyed Junco), Townsend's Ptarmigan (alt. Rock Ptarmigan) and Townsend's Sparrow (alt. Fox Sparrow) also carry Mr. T's name.



Ironically, John Townsend died of arsenic poisoning. It was his secret ingredient in his formula for taxidermy. No wonder they're so careful with the bird skins in our museum's wonderful collection!

Speaking of Nuttall, Thomas Nuttall (1786-1859), an English botanist and zoologist collected for Pennsylvania University. He inherited a family estate and "had to fulfill his legal requirements" by coming to the US and handling the estate. Mr. Nuttall published a field guide to US and Canadian birds, the book being inexpensive and small – a real field guide for the time. He "collected" and ID's the American Black Oystercatcher, Western Gull, Townsend's Solitaire, (see above), Green-tailed Towhee, Harris's Sparrow, Common Poorwill, Nuttall's Sparrow (alt. White-Crowned Sparrow), Anna's Hummingbird and Tricolored Blackbird to name a few. And as we've learned – the birds don't always get named for their discoverer – it's who you know. But, William Gamble did commemorate Mr. Nuttall with his own woodpecker.

Good birding to all,

Niña Routh

An Additional Report from Doris and Jimmy Cruze

On Monday, September 27, we found 4 adult Tundra Swans in a pond near Bergen Park in Jefferson County. (The pond is on the Mount Evans Road and we had gone to Mount Evans to look at the aspen turning)



Dues Renewal for 2011

It is that time of year! Save a stamp. Bring a check or cash to October 19 or November 22 DFO meeting. \$30 mailed newsletter, \$20 email, and if you want...donations to Educational Fund.

So Sayeth the Speaker...

"Colorado's Black Swifts" by Jason Beason

Either Colorado has more Black Swift nesting colonies by a factor of ten than any other state in the US, or we have the best researchers. Based on Jason's talk, I think it's the latter.

Dr. Owen A. Knorr found the first 27 colonies of Black Swifts in the 1940s and 50s, then Rick Levad, Kim Potter, Jason Beason, Sue Hirschman and even a caver, Donald Davis, added to the list of colonies until currently 102 colonies of Black Swifts are confirmed in Colorado. These colonies are in the western half of the state, with a large concentration in the San Juan Wilderness Area. Black Swifts nest in cold, wet, mossy niches, often, but not always near rushing waterfalls. Although the lore demands that Black Swifts are classically behind mighty waterfalls, thereby being completely inaccessible to the average birder, that is more myth than fact. They have been found many feet away from waterfalls on ledges, and inside caves 20 feet up on the walls, far above the water trickle on the floor below. Colonies are made up of about 3-7 pairs most of the time, and they tend to return to the same nesting spot year after year, sometimes using the same nest. On occasion, though, they can be seen in large migrating flocks of several hundred.

There is much about swifts we don't know. We have no accurate population estimates, although Colorado is far ahead of the rest of the US in documenting its population. We don't know how to tell a female from a male, although DNA studies from blood drops taken by Colorado researchers are beginning to clarify this dilemma. Some drops of blood also went to The Smithsonian to complete their documentation on all the bird species in the US. Thanks to the dedication of Colorado researchers who have dedicated hours upon hours hiking into remote areas, finding caves or niches, or climbing slippery and cliffs to band and study swifts, we are learning more about these elusive birds. We do know that Black Swifts arrive very late in May, begin nesting without delay, and the last nestling may not fledge until before Sept 20. This is an extraordinarily prolonged nesting season, much longer than other swifts. To compound the delicacy of the breeding process, Black Swifts lay only one egg, again different from other swift species which have 4 or 5 per clutch. Black Swift hatchlings are attended by the parents for the first one to two weeks, but then have to survive with much less attention from those parents which must spend their days out feeding, returning to the nest only at night to roost. The nestlings go into a torpor while the parents are away, which explains how they can tolerate the lack of food during the day, and the wet, cold, shady nest that other birds would not tolerate.

Recent research with mist nets and banding has revealed how faithful the swifts are in returning to the same area from year to year. We know this because banded birds are recaptured at an unusually high rate. Banding, although sometimes stressful for the birds, has not resulted in any loss so far, which is unusual. Sometimes, though, the birds regurgitate from the stress, and from accident we have learned about their varied diet of mayflies, ants, leafhoppers and 25 other insect species. One question kept nagging at the researchers. Where do the Black Swifts go in the winter? To answer this, they placed geo-locators, able to read light patterns and therefore determine latitude and longitude, on several birds' backs. Of the first four birds studied, three returned to the same nesting area, were recaptured, and brought back with them recordings about where they had been. This information about their southern wintering grounds should be published sometime in the coming year.

Another burning question is: Will Black Swifts be particularly susceptible to climate change? For example, if the peak run-off time in mountains comes earlier and earlier due to warmer springs, will August be too dry and hot to support the nesting needs of this species? Also, since we know swift nestlings normally go into torpor in the nest, will increasing heat bring upon a damaging and stressful increase in their metabolic rates?

Jason concluded his talk by referencing Rich Levad's new e-book made available through ABA, entitled *The Coolest Bird*. By the end of Jason's mesmerizing talk, the DFO audience could truly relate to his infective enthusiasm and appreciate "cool" Black Swifts and those who study them much more fully.

Carol Blackard

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

PRESIDENT

Charles Thornton-Kolbe, 2284 S Josephine Street, Denver CO 80210, 303.777.7588
Charles@pibird.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Lynn Willcockson, 2698 S Niagara, Denver CO 80224 303.757.7000
lynnliz2698@aol.com

TREASURER

Bob Shade, 9353 W Nevada Place, Lakewood CO 80226-3029, 303.975.2476
WRSHADE3@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Niña Routh (10) nrouth@copper.net

DIRECTORS

Alison Kondler (13) fieldbirder@msn.com
 Rick and Connie Steinkamp (12) ricconcal@comcast.net
 John Drummond (12) jxdrummo@aol.com
 Carol Blackard (11) carol-blackard@comcast.net
 Ira Sanders (11) greatauk@msn.com
 Chris Blakeslee (10) chrisabla@aol.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742 303.771.3431
mcburger3@juno.com

HISTORIAN

Warren Finch, 303.233.3372

FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS

Patty Echelmeyer, 303.233.4947,
 Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct
 Jackie King, 303.287.1644,
 Feb, May, Aug, Nov
 Meredith Anderson, 303.280.8576
 Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec
 Support Field Trip Coordinators: Mary Geder
 303.986.6127, Alison Kondler 303.904.9140 and
 Jill Boice 303.863.7580

Lark Bunting Editor

Veronica Holt, 303.646.3829
veronicaholt@Q.com

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, trip reports from the previous month, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome and openly solicited. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80232, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net.

Additional Reports

Polleke Siraa, psiraa@earthlink.net, 1221 E Amherst Cr., Aurora, CO 80014, 303.755.2522.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128 dacbcocook@comcast.net

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, cris@pcisys.net

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson meander303@mac.com

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303-771-1421, email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is back-up contact person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email d_d_hill@comcast.net.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy). Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Rare Bird Alert: With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sighting of rare or unusual birds, located on the [Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site](http://ColoradoFieldOrnithologists.org).

Denver Field Ornithologists 2011 Membership Application

Please state type of membership:

☐ New Membership

☐ Renewal

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st.

The Denver Field Ornithologists has been recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Contributions to the DFO are tax deductible, if adjusted for services and goods received. DFO membership fees with electronic newsletter delivery are fully tax deductible. Contributions to the endowment fund are fully tax deductible. DFO memberships with mailed newsletters (the \$30 Membership), should only deduct \$7 (as the cost of printing, producing and mailing the newsletter is \$23.00 per mailed newsletter). Fees for mailing the field trip reports are not tax-deductible.

- ☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00
- ☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00
- ☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

For those who wish to have the field trip reports mailed to them, rather than downloading from the DFO web site, please add an additional \$10 to your regular membership.

- ☐ Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund \$_____

DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____

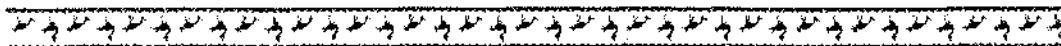
State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

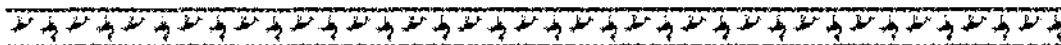
Electronic Lark Bunting Email address: _____

Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742



Monday, November 22
Kevin Cook—Falcon and Parrot: Newly Discovered
Peculiarities in the Birds' Family Tree

Tuesday, October 19
Scott Rashid and Small Mountain Owls
(NOTE CHANGE OF DAY AND DATE)



Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742

FIELD TRIP SUMMARY TABLE NOVEMBER 2010 DFO

DATE	6	7	13	18	20	21	28
LOCATION	SOU	LON	CHE	BOU	SWM	CHA	PUE
Snow Goose							1
Cackling Goose							20
Canada Goose	27		12	60		250	250
Tundra Swan		2					
Wood Duck							6
Gadwall	8	42		12		30	
American Wigeon	80	16		6		26	20
Mallard	47	173	5	20		85	55
Northern Shoveler	14	24	5	30		125	
Northern Pintail	1		5	4		110	
Green winged Teal	6		4	6		15	1
Canvasback		2		8			
Redhead			3	12		1	18
Ring necked Duck				10		9	
Lesser Scaup						1	
Long tailed Duck							1
Bufflehead	3	12	5	30		2	3
Common Goldeneye		4		40		3	30
Hooded Merganser	1	21	2	4		1	
Common Merganser						75	
Red breasted Merganser		20					
Common Loon			3	8		4	1
Pied billed Grebe		4	7			2	7
Horned Grebe		17	2	300			10
Eared Grebe		1	1			12	75
Western Grebe	7	1,510	70	40		225	150
Clark's Grebe						1	
American White Pelican			45	20		23	
Double crested Cormorant			10	1			
Great Blue Heron	2			1		2	2
Bald Eagle				6			1
Northern Harrier		1		3			
Red tailed Hawk	1	9	2	20		3	7
Rough legged Hawk				1			
Golden Eagle				1			2
American Kestrel	3	2	3	8		2	3
Merlin							1
Peregrine Falcon							1
American Coot	10	36	15	2		70	100
Killdeer			8	2		1	
Long billed Dowitcher			1				
Wilson's Snipe			2				
Bonaparte's Gull			1			5	33
Ring billed Gull		410	120	200		60	400
California Gull			15			2	2
Herring Gull			2			1	7
Lesser Black backed Gull							1

Great Black backed Gull							1
Rock Pigeon		32		60			20
Eurasian Collared Dove		5		10			2
Great Horned Owl				1			
Belted Kingfisher	3		2	3			1
Downy Woodpecker	4	1	1			2	
Northern Flicker	8	4	4	8		5	5
Loggerhead Shrike							1
Blue Jay	4	1		10			
Black billed Magpie	3		8	10		7	
American Crow	6	3	7	40		24	3
Common Raven						2	5
Horned Lark						11	25
Black capped Chickadee	3		3	6		5	
Mountain Chickadee				1			
White breasted Nuthatch				1		2	
Marsh Wren		5					
Mountain Bluebird							300
Townsend's Solitaire						1	2
American Robin		5	1	40		2	200
Northern Mockingbird							1
European Starling	55	5	50	200		30	200
American Pipit			7				
Canyon Towhee							4
American Tree Sparrow		1	12			8	9
Chipping Sparrow		6					
Song Sparrow	4	8		1		3	
Harris's Sparrow				1			
White crowned Sparrow	9	8		20			6
Dark eyed Junco				12		18	8
Red winged Blackbird	40	150		30		3	25
Western Meadowlark							1
Yellow headed Blackbird				6			
Great tailed Grackle				1			
House Finch	7	9	20	6		15	20
American Goldfinch		1	3			2	
House Sparrow				12			3
TOTAL	356	2550	466	1334	0	1286	2050

South Platte (SOU)

Longmont Area (LON)

Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)

Boulder Area (BOU)

Chatfield State Park (CHA)

Pueblo (PUE)



The Lark Bunting



DECEMBER 2010

www.dfobirders.org

Volume 45, Number 12

DFO Meeting for November 22



Kevin Cook -- Falcons and Parrots Newly Discovered Peculiarities in the Birds' Family Tree

Birds have touched humanity from the beginning. They enchant our myths and fairy tales, they color our cultural aphorisms, they appear as petroglyphs, they motivated exploration, they became fodder of politics, and now they stimulate commerce. Not surprisingly then, three centuries ago the human appetite for knowledge reached for the world of birds and has been pondering that world ever

Continued on page 3

December Field Trips

Saturday December 4

Deer Creek Canyon

Leader: Lynn Willcockson 303.757.7000. Meet leader at 0800 at the entrance to the Arboretum on Deer Creek Canyon Road, about a quarter mile west of Wadsworth Blvd. Enjoy a leisurely walk through the Arboretum and the Park, and see what birds are out making a living in the unpredictable December environment! With any luck, you might add to your year list. Half-day trip, lunch optional. Please advise Lynn if you intend to participate so he can notify you of any changes to the plan.

Sunday December 5

Barr Lake and Winter Raptors

Leader: Tim Smart 303.439.9627. Join Tim and co-leader Meredith Anderson for a day of exploration around Barr Lake and roads east for wintering waterfowl. Long-eared Owls, riparian birds and raptors, Bald Eagle and Rough-legged Hawk are likely finds. Meet leader at 0830 at the Visitors' Center parking lot. Bring lunch, scope and two-way radio if you have one. Trip will wrap up by mid-afternoon.

Saturday December 11

Fawnbrook Inn and Northern Foothills

Leaders Mike Serruto 303.377.9870 and Nifia Routh 303.987.8687. Meet leaders at 0800 on the northwest side of the Wagon Road Park 'n Ride, 120th Avenue at Huron Street in Westminster (exit 223 from I-25, then west about a half-mile). We'll carpool and head north through Lyons into Allenspark and look for Rosy finches, woodpeckers, waxwings, nuthatches, chickadees, junco, grosbeaks, jays, crossbills and accipiters. Plan to have lunch at a small diner in Allenspark, or bring your own if you prefer. We'll be back in town before dusk. Please notify Mike or Nifia if you plan to attend.

Sunday December 12

Platte River at 88th Avenue

Leaders: Paul Slingsby 303.422.3728. Meet leader at 0800 at the parking lot at 88th Avenue where Colorado Blvd. crosses into it from the north. We'll scan the river and ponds for waterfowl and be on the lookout for raptors and winter migrants and residents. Lunch optional, with opportunities for some additional birding in the afternoon. Bring a scope if you have one. Please notify Paul if you plan to attend.

Denver Urban Christmas Count, January 1 2011



A holiday tradition – everyone welcome: beginners, intermediate, and advanced. The more eyes we have, the more birds we see. And we like to encourage people to get involved. Start the New Year with a half day or whole day effort – a good way to start your New Year's List!

The count covers a circle with a 15-mile diameter that includes the Platte River from North City limits to Mississippi, west to Buckley Field and Rocky Mtn. Arsenal. \$5.00 fee, payable to National Audubon Society, to defray costs of the count. 5:00pm, after the count, **Pot Luck**, at Casey Davenport's, 415 South High (5 blocks west of University, about 2 blocks south of Alameda); please call Urling (303-814-2723) so we can count you in on the chili pot, Urling's brownies, Casey's hospitality, and your salad, dessert, veggie, or finger foods.

Area Location	Leader	Leader's Telephone	
South Platte (south) To Confluence Park	Doris Cruze	303-798-8072	Some walking
South Platte (central) Confluence Park to Riverside Cemetery	Casey Davenport	303-744-0613	Some walking
South Platte (north)	Dick Schottler	303-278-8035	Walking
Rocky Mtn. Arsenal	Urling Kingery	303-814-2723	Walking
Commerce City/Montbello	Jackie King	303-287-1644	Car
Sand Creek/Tollgate Creek/ Bluff Lake, & Aurora	Buzz Schaumberg egseagle171@aol.com	303-699-1721 > Randy Lentz, 303-680-3381	Walking
Cherry Creek Res.	Bob Brown PicaPica@worldnet.att.net	303-791-6204	Some walking
Kent School, S/Hampden	Lynn Willcockson	303-757-7000	Some walking
SE Denver, N/Hampden	Karen Bickett kbick@netscape.net	303 935 5808	Walking
Cherry Creek, dam to University Blvd.	Paul Slingsby paslingsby@comcast.net	303-422-3728	7-mile walk
Fairmont, Lowry Field	Tuesday Birders	303-979-6211	Car, some walking
City Park/Park Hill	Kevin Corwin	720-482-8454	Car, some walking
Botanic Gardens, Wash. Park Denver Country Club,	Marilyn Rhodes Bob Santangelo	303-674-6580 303-771-1367	Car, some walking

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DFO Meeting Presentations, continued

since. But just like life itself, what we know about birds has been evolving. You go to bed one night with the tanagers in one family, and you wake up the next morning and they have been moved to a different family. You leave for a birding trip with the storks and herons mingling as cousins, and you come back to find herons and pelicans have something going. And perhaps only God himself knows what to do with condors...and He's not telling. We have engaged in a bloodless intellectual war between factual knowledge and comfortable perception. For example, perception argues that falcons and hawks must be related; but since the 1960s, some ornithologists have argued that falcons and hawks are not related based on certain specific biological evidence. Their arguments fell on ears deafened by the traditions of perception. But now additional evidence corroborates their claims and points to a common ancestry between parrots and falcons. New names and new classifications reflect new knowledge, which means we're not finished learning. Not yet. November's program, "Falcons and Parrots: Newly Discovered Peculiarities in the Birds' Family Tree," will explain the history of bird classification as a way to interpret current thinking about current knowledge with an eye towards what we can expect next. The program's momentum will move ever forward on the assertion that new knowledge, properly assimilated, enriches the birding experience.

December 2010 **NO DFO MEETING**. Please plan to participate in the Denver Christmas Count, the Urban Count and/or as many of the other Christmas Bird Counts around the state as you can.

Launching the New Year's meetings on Monday January 24 will be Nick Komar and "Gulls of Colorado -- Everything You Always Wanted to Know (But Were Afraid to Ask!)"

*The Denver Field Ornithologists monthly meetings are held in Ricketson Auditorium at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science in City Park. These meetings are free and open to the public and occur on the 4th Monday of each month August through April (except December). Park on the north side of the Museum and walk around and enter through the Museum's west doors. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. Plan to arrive by 7:15 p.m. **DOORS OPEN BY 7:00 AND ARE LOCKED AT 7:30.***

Join a Powerful Force for Nature: Project FeederWatch

Ithaca, NY—One backyard at a time, participants in Project FeederWatch are doing their part to unravel nature's mysteries—simply by sharing information about the birds that visit their feeders from November to April. The 24th season of Project FeederWatch began November 13, although new participants can join at any time.



Evening Grosbeak by J. ...

People of all ages and skill levels can be FeederWatchers and do their part to help researchers better understand trends in bird populations. Participants count the numbers and different species of birds at their feeders and enter their information on the FeederWatch website at www.FeederWatch.org. By collecting information from all these feeders in all these backyards, scientists at the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](http://www.CornellLabofOrnithology.org) are able to track patterns in bird populations and movement from year to year, all across North America.

Here are just a few key findings based on nearly a quarter-century of FeederWatch data:

Populations of Evening Grosbeaks, once one of our most common backyard birds, continue to decline. Many species are expanding their ranges to the north, including Northern Cardinals and Anna's Hummingbirds. The nonnative Eurasian Collared-Dove is invading North America at an unprecedented rate — it is now found in backyards from Florida to Alaska.

"By engaging the public we are able to pick up fluctuations that could be the result of climate change, habitat destruction, disease, or other environmental factors," said project leader David Bonter. "These are large-scale changes that we would not be able to see without the massive amount of data we receive from our participants. Keeping an eye out in your own backyard can make a difference."

To learn more about joining Project FeederWatch and to sign up, visit www.FeederWatch.org or call the Cornell Lab toll-free at (866) 989-2473. In return for the \$15 fee (\$12 for Cornell Lab members) participants receive the FeederWatcher's Handbook, an identification poster of the most common feeder birds, a calendar, complete instructions, and Winter Bird Highlights, an annual summary of FeederWatch findings.

Field Trip Summaries for October 2010

Oct 2, Saturday *Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)*

Leader(s): Bob Brown. **Observers:** Bob Andrews, Mary C Burger, Tom Bunker, Jim Connell, Jeff Dawson, Nelson Ford, Pauline Ide, Mary Keithler, Lois Levinson, Cynthia Madsen, Karen von Saltza, Polleke Siraa, Andy Spellman. **Time:** 0730-1300. **Distance:** 12 miles by car, 3¼ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Open water, mixed riparian, elevation 5575'. **Weather:** Clear, 45-65°F, calm. **Totals:** 51 species, 916 individuals.

Oct 3, Sunday *Chatfield State Park (CHA)*

Leader(s): Ed Holub. **Observers:** Nelson Ford, Jackie Heyda, Pauline Ide, Liz and Kent Kreider, Pablo Ovezada, Yvonne Parrott, Kiki Widjaja, Scott Yarberry. **Time:** 0730-1335. **Distance:** 14 miles by car, 1¼ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lake, river riparian, prairie, elevation 5500'. **Weather:** Sunny, mostly clear, 50-82°F. **Totals:** 34 species, 779 individuals.

Oct 9, Saturday *Bear Creek Lake Park and Red Rocks (BEA)*

Leader(s): Mike Henwood. **Observers:** Rick Creswell, Clint and Carol Flynn, Peggy Gonder, Edie Israel, Jim Rouse, Polleke Siraa. **Time:** 0730-1100. **Habitat:** lake & riparian, shrubs, short grass prairie. **Weather:** Cool and clear, low 50's, became breezy later in morning. **Totals:** 8 species, 104 individuals.

Highlights: Highlights at BCLP were great looks at a Cooper's Hawk as well as observing two Wilson's Snipe feeding.

Oct 10, Sunday *The Big Sit -at Chatfield State Park Original Heronry Overlook (BIG)*

Leader(s): Joey Kellner. **Observers:** Carolyn Bredenberg, Karen Clark, Joan Cox, Donna Gilbert, Fred Hager, Jill Holden, Ed Holub, Loch Kilpatrick, Nick Komar, Charlie Lawrence, Randy Lentz, Joe Lupfer, Kathy Mihm Dunning, Greg Pasquariello, Dick Prickett, Glenn Rodriguez, Dick Schottler, Stanley Shapiro, Steve Stachowiak, Cnnie Steinkamp, Rick Steinkamp, Phyllis Tharp, Glenn Walbek, Bill Wuerthele. **Time:** 0527-1900. **Weather:** Clearing, becoming overcast for the rest of the day with occasional light drizzle, 45-57°F, north wind 0-10mph. **Totals:** 61 species, 1387 individuals.

Oct 10, Sunday *Sprague's Pipits Trip (SPR)* Cancelled due to weather.

Oct 16, Saturday *Belmar Park (BEL)*

Leader(s): Karleen Schofield. **Observers:** Rick Creswell, Patty Echelmeyer, Wayne Haggerty, George Griffin, Linda Wyatt, Jerry Davidson, Cyndy Johnson, Dot Aho, Roberta Chase, Bob Spencer. **Time:** 0830-1130. **Distance:** ¾ mile on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, meadow, man-made lake, elevation 5500'. **Weather:** Sunny, 72-78°F, calm. **Totals:** 20 species, 372 individuals.

Oct 17, Sunday *Lair o' the Bear Open Space Park (LAI)*

Leader(s): Norm Lewis. **Observers:** Jerry Cech, Karen Clark, Jim Duggan, Nancy and Frank Hatch, Linda Henry, Joe Lupfer, Paul Slingsby, Amy Wiley, Linda Wyatt. **Time:** 0800-1200. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Totals:** 22 species, 67 individuals.

Oct 23, Saturday *Rocky Mountain Arsenal (ROC)*

Leader(s): Dave Rhoades. **Observers:** Don Beltz, Tom Bunker, Joan Folinsbee, John Folinsbee, Elly Holtzmann, Nico Holtzmann, Amy Wiley, Linda Wyatt. **Time:** 0800-1300. **Distance:** 6 miles by car, 1 mile on foot. **Habitat:** Lake, prairie, riparian, woodlands, elevation 5250'. **Weather:** Partly cloudy, 50-70°F, windy. **Totals:** 37 species, 878 individuals.

Highlights: Flock of Townsend's Solitaire, adult and immature Bald Eagle, hundreds of coots.

Oct 24, Sunday *Fort Collins Area (FOR)*

Leader(s): Paul Slingsby. **Observers:** Jim Duggan, Toni Rautus, Betsy Shaw, Bruce Neuman, Cheri Orwig. **Time:** 0800-1630. **Distance:** 5 miles. **Habitat:** Lake, prairie, natural area, reservoir. **Weather:** Partly cloudy to cloudy, 41-60's°F, very strong wind. **Totals:** 49 species, 1471 individuals.

Oct 30, Saturday *Parker Regional Park (PAR)*

Leader(s): Buzz Schaumberg. **Observers:** Mark Amershek, Jackie Heyda. **Time:** 0730-1100. **Distance:** 2 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Pond, mixed evergreen, deciduous trees, prairie, stream-side. **Weather:** Light breeze early, 45-68°F. **Totals:** 22 species, 365 individuals.

Oct 31, Sunday *South Platte Park (SOU)*

Leader(s): Mary Keithler. **Observers:** Derek Hankins, Pauline Ide, Karen Kolb, Lois Levinson, Cynthia Madsen, Karen von Saltza. **Time:** 0800-1230. **Distance:** 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, cottonwood, willows, aspen, open water, elevation

Field Trip Summaries for October 2010, continued

5350'. **Weather:** Sunny, 43-53°F, south wind 0-8mph. **Totals:** 38 species, 581 individuals.

Tuesday Birders

Oct 5 *Chatfield State Park (CHA)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell. **Observers:** 39 (two groups). **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 10 miles by car, 4.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Large reservoir, riparian, prairie grass, cottonwood, grassy areas, open water, shoreline, elevation 5430'. **Weather:** Mild, sunny, 64-82°F, southeast wind 0-3mph. **Totals:** 39 species, 941 individuals.

Oct 12 Canceled due to weather

Oct 19 *Roxborough State Park (ROX)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Mary Keithler. **Observers:** 33 (two groups). **Time:** 0930-1230. **Distance:** 4.5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, open meadow, rock outcroppings, ponderosa pine, scrub oak, elevation 6230'. **Weather:** Sunny, 48-62°F, north wind, 3-8 mph. **Totals:** 29 species, 86 individuals.

Oct 26 *South Platte Park / Carson Nature Center (SOU)*

Leader(s): Ann Bonnell and Else van Erp. **Observers:** 33 (two groups). **Time:** 0900-1200. **Distance:** 4.0 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Gravel ponds, riparian, cottonwood, willow, cattails, bicycle trail, elevation 5600'. **Weather:** Sunny, windy, 46-55°F, northwest wind, 5-25 mph. **Totals:** 34 species, 402 individuals.

Our Overnight Guest



Her name was Rufous.

When we let the dog outside, we usually leave the garage door open so that he has a sheltered place to go to if he needs it. Sometimes, while the door is open, different animals, such as chipmunks and squirrels, will sneak past him into the garage, and one winter we wound up with a pack rat trying to nest in a flowerpot.

During the summer, some of the hummingbirds will fly into the garage, attracted by various red items in there, but they usually find their way right back out again. There have been times we have had to lure them out the door with a red hummingbird feeder attached to the end of a pole, but those have been rare occasions.

Thursday evening, when I went to let the dog into the house, I discovered that we had a female rufous hummingbird flying around in the garage. I shut off the light in the garage, hoping that she would see the light at the doorway and fly toward that. Since it was close to dusk, however, she must have been desperate, and instead of looking for the light she just kept trying to go up and then kept bumping into that hard bit of sky known as the garage ceiling.

Unlike other animals, who merely go to sleep at night, hummingbirds go into a state of torpor, very similar to hibernation. This hummingbird finally did that and was hanging from a fixture on the ceiling looking as if she were dead. I got a ladder to see if I could grab her and carry her outside, but the torpor was not deep enough, and she woke up and continued flailing around on the ceiling of the garage. We finally decided to let her spend the night in the garage and hoped she could find her way out in the morning.

When I let the dog out early the next morning, I looked all around the garage but couldn't see the hummingbird. I was hoping she hadn't died during the night, but was fairly confident that she had found a safe hiding place to bed down. I drove down the canyon to work and left the hummingbird problem for my wife.

Shortly before dawn, my wife sent me a message saying she had gone out to the garage and saw the hummingbird perched in a state of torpor on a wire on the ceiling of the garage. A short while later, she sent me another message telling me that when she opened the garage door the hummingbird woke up and immediately flew out the garage door to freedom.

We are thankful that this story had a happy ending. It does go to show, however, that when you are living in the habitat of the wild creatures of the forest, you sometimes need to put in a little extra effort to help save them after your attractive nuisance has put them in an unusual situation.

Author information: Eric Christensen is a bird watcher and wildlife lover living in the Nederland area. For more on Eric's experiences in Boulder County, see <http://pianamon.wordpress.com/> and <http://gsagarden.wordpress.com/>.

DFO President's Update

New Trip Schedulers: We now have a full regiment of trip schedulers once again. The full membership should thank **Mary Geder, Jill Boice and Alison Kondler** for stepping into this important role. Continuing on is Jackie King, Pattie Echelmeyer and Meredith Anderson. **Whenever these folks call to ask you to be a trip leader, please return their calls within a few days** (even if to let them know you need a bit more time to figure a trip out).

Joe Bartell and Glass Collision Leadership: Joe and the American Bird Conservancy and a growing group of many others are showing great leadership on urging cities to keep their lights out in the evening. By keeping their lights out on downtown buildings at night, fewer birds are attracted to these areas, reducing collisions and bird deaths. Call Joe and ask him how you can help.

Paying 2011 Dues: Please pay your DFO dues for 2011, supporting our organization which offers over 100 field trips annually (a record stretching back 75 years). Mary Cay Burger will be at next DFO meeting to collect your dues on November 23. Also, just drop the dues in the mail. A portion is tax deductible.

DFO Board Secretary: We have been looking for a DFO Board Secretary for about six months. This volunteer job involves taking minutes of Board meetings (about 3 or 4 times per year). Please call me (Charles Thornton-Kolbe, Board President) to get involved at 303-777-7588.

Volunteering for DFO: We are an all volunteer organization. Please consider volunteering as a trip leader, on the DFO Board, or helping with some of our improvement projects. Call Mary Cay Burger or Alison Kondler to get involved with our marketing and outreach projects. Call Carol Blackard or Lynn Wilcockson to get involved with a project to get younger people involved in birding. Call Alison Kondler and Niña Routh to get involved with developing workshops on birding skill development. All of their phone numbers are inside the back cover of this newsletter. Volunteering 10 to 40 hours per year is what keeps this organization going. Over 50 of our members volunteer over 40 hours per year, please contribute as well.

Welcome New Members!

Mark Amershek, PO Box 18014, Denver, CO 80218, 303.329.8646
Cheryl Chessick & Sharon Pfeifer, 840 S Garfield St, Denver, CO 80209-5004
Linda Henry, 2150 E 3rd Ave, Denver, CO 80206, 303.388.8601
Sandra Johnson, 12201 W 2nd Pl #3-307, Lakewood, CO 80228, 303.984.4619
Thank you Paul Slingsby for your donation to Educational Endowment Fund:

Reminder: DFO members have contributed more than enough to pay the Rare Bird Alert phone bill for many years to come. All donations now go to the Educational Fund.

57th Denver Christmas Bird Count - Saturday, December 18, 2010

"After 21 years of distinguished service Dick Schottler has stepped down as the Count Compiler for the Denver Christmas Bird Count. Thanks Dick for all your years of volunteer work in keeping the count running smoothly all those years. We appreciate all you've done!"

Count Leader/Compiler: Joey Kellner (303-978-1748), vireo1@comcast.net

Feeder Coordinators: Patty Echelmeyer (303-233-4947), Tina Jones (303-794-2647)

Compilation meeting: 5:00 pm, South Platte Park classroom, 3000 W. Carson Dr.

All DFO members are encouraged to participate in the annual Denver Christmas Bird Count (CBC) sponsored by the Denver Field Ornithologists and the National Audubon Society. To participate, call one of the Area Leaders listed below to assist in a particular area, or call the Count Leader if you would like to help in an area that still needs additional observers. As can be seen on the list, **there is still an area that does not have a leader and will not be covered unless a volunteer is found to help out.** If you would be willing to this area, please call the Count Leader as soon as possible. After a day in the field, all participants are invited to attend the short compilation meeting to feast, warm up, chat with other birders, and find out how the count fared. It is a lot of fun. Feel free to bring a dish or desert to share!

- **Fees:** Each observer over the age of 18 must pay a \$5.00 fee to participate in the Denver CBC. Participants should pay the \$5.00 fee to their Area Leader before taking part in the Count. Checks should be made payable to *National Audubon Society*, **not** to DFO.
- **Pre-counts:** Area Leaders are encouraged to conduct pre-counts in their areas, particularly if unfamiliar with the area. Since days and times of pre-counts will vary, contact an Area Leader if you wish to assist on a pre-count in a particular area. There is no fee for participating in a pre-count.

Area locations and names and phone numbers of Area Leaders are listed below. Participants should contact Area Leaders for meeting times and places on Count day, Saturday, December 18.

Area Number and Location	Area Leader	Phone Number
1. Red Rocks Park	Bob Brown	303-791-6204
2. Lower Bear Creek	Karen von Saltza	303-368-9961
2A. Bear Creek Lake Park	Kathy Hawkins	303-969-8909
3. Bow Mar/Marston	Kay Niyo	303-679-6646
4A. Lower South Platte - East	Ed Holub	303-979-2194
4B. Lower South Platte - West	Bob Shade	303-975-2476
5. Highline Ditch	Nancy Crews	303-791-8276
6. Plum Creek	Norm Erthal	303-424-6747
7A. Middle South Platte - West	Randy Lentz	303-680-3381
7B. Middle South Platte - East	Hugh Kingery	303-814-2723
8. Chatfield State Park	Joey Kellner	303-978-1748
9. Upper South Platte *	Jill Holden	303-972-6410
10. Lower Deer Creek	Lynn Willcockson	303-757-7000
11. Upper Deer Creek	Paul Slingsby	303-422-3728
12. Yegge Peak	Ann Bonnell	303-979-6211
13. Doublehead Mountain	Amy & Tim Davis	303-841-6163
14. North Turkey Creek	Dick Schottler	303-278-8035
15. Indian Hills	Sherman Wing	303-697-8840
16. Upper Bear Creek	Tom Parchman	303-274-7951
17. Ken Caryl Ranch	Tom Bush	303-904-4576
18. Garrison Gate	(leader needed)	
19. Morrison/Willowbrook	Jackie King	303-287-1644
20. Willow Creek	Doris Cruze	303-798-8072
21. Mount Lindo/Willow Springs	Wayne Wathen	720-344-0158

* to participate in this area, you must contact the area leader no later than Tuesday, December 14.

Fall Count Summaries, from Hugh Kingery

Our 2010 Fall Count recorded the lowest number of species and the lowest number of individuals of any of the 24 counts. We counted 56% of the average number of individuals; almost all common species had lower numbers than average: 56% of all ducks, 49% of shorebirds, 48% as many gulls, 73% as many pigeons and doves, 50% as many swallows, 71% as many sparrows, 30% as many blackbirds.

Individual counts had special moments. Counters at Castlewood watched 500 crows come off a roost, and found one Northern Parula. The Cherry Creek group had the only new bird for the count, a Whimbrel, and also counted the Long-billed Jaeger that spent 2-3 weeks there. Diligent efforts led to 15 Virginia Rails (above average) and 9 Soras (highest for Fall Counts).

September 10, Friday *Cherry Creek State Park (CHE)*

Leader(s): Bob Brown. **Observers:** Pauline Ide. **Time:** 0645-1315. **Distance:** 16 miles by car, 3½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Mixed riparian, open water, elevation 5571'. **Weather:** Mostly clear, 50-80°F, southeast wind, 0-10mph. **Totals:** 58 species, 582 individuals.

September 11, Saturday *Waterton (WAT)*

Leader: Hugh Kingery. **Observers:** Bruce Blodgett, Jeff Dawson, Merikay Haggerty, Urling Kingery, Bonny Orkow, Andy Spellman, Oliver Spellman, Tanner Spellman. **Time:** 0630-1330. **Distance:** 10 miles by car, 6 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, ponds, grassland. **Weather:** Clear, 40-50°F. **Totals:** 58 species, 517 individuals.

September 11, Saturday *Chatfield State Park (CHA)*

Leader(s): Joey Kellner. **Observers:** Jill Holden, Ed Holub, Charlie Lawrence, Randy Lentz, Bob Shade, Connie Steinkamp, Rick Steinkamp, Cheryl Teuton, Glenn Walbek. **Time:** 0630-1923. **Distance:** 33 miles by car, 7½ miles on foot. **Weather:** Clear blue sky, 40-82°F, south wind, 0-8mph. **Totals:** 92 species, 940 individuals.

September 11, Saturday *Barr Lake State Park (BAR)*

Leader(s): Dick Schottler. **Observers:** Dick Pratt, Joe Roller, Jeff Stroup. **Time:** 0630-1630. **Distance:** 10 miles by car, 5 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Prairie, man-made reservoir with associated riparian. **Weather:** Clear, 40-85°F, variable wind, 0-15mph (mostly calm in afternoon). **Totals:** 81 species, 2283 individuals.

September 11, Saturday *Lower Bear Creek and Marston Reservoir (LOW)*

Leader(s): Bob Andrews. **Observers:** Michael Kiessig, Lois Levinson, Rob Raker, Karen von Saltza, Barbara Shissler, Cindy Valentine. **Time:** 0700-1200. **Distance:** 2 miles by car, 1½ miles on foot. **Habitat:** Lowland cottonwood riparian woodland, mixed native shrubland/non-native grassland, reservoir, creek. **Weather:** Clear skies, upper 40s to low 70s°F, calm. **Totals:** 69 species, 1531 individuals.

September 12, Sunday *Barr Lake Periphery (BLP)*

Leader(s): Dick Anderson. **Time:** 0700-0930. **Distance:** 24 miles by car. **Habitat:** Riparian, open fields, farmsteads. **Weather:** Clear, 55-75°F, very little wind. **Totals:** 19 species, 494 individuals.

September 12, Sunday *Castlewood Canyon State Park (CAS)*

Leader(s): Kirk Huffstater. **Observers:** Kyle Huffstater, Randy Lentz, Tom Halverstadt, Bev DuGay, Nelson Ford, Peggy Wait, Andy Spellman, Tanner Spellman, Oliver Spellman, Laurie Duke. **Time:** 0630-1500. **Distance:** 12 miles by car, 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Ponderosa pine, douglas fir, gambels oak, riparian, willows, grasslands, elevation 6300'. **Weather:** Partly cloudy, 45-85°F, northwest wind 5-10mph. **Totals:** 67 species, 1034 individuals.

September 13, Sunday *Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR (ROC)*

Leader: Urling Kingery. **Observers:** Karen Bellina, Von Fransen, Ashley Fransen, Hugh Kingery, Alison Kondler, Kent Kreider, Liz Kreider, Jean Tate. **Time:** 0630-1700. **Distance:** 37 miles by car, 3 miles on foot. **Habitat:** Riparian, lake, marsh, grassland. **Weather:** Clear, 47+°F. **Totals:** 90 species, 1627 individuals.

So Sayeth the Speaker...

***Small Mountain Owls*—Presenter Scott Rashid**

At the October meeting, a large group of DFO members was treated to a fascinating and fast-paced peek into the lives of four small Colorado owls by the very knowledgeable Scott Rashid, author of *Small Mountain Owls*, published in 2009. The four species featured in Scott's presentation were Northern Pygmy-Owl, Flammulated Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, and Boreal Owl. Scott's busy professional life encompasses three major areas: bird rehabilitation, photography and art, and research. His watercolors are a marriage of cubism and realism and he includes three birds in a painting, providing details on all aspects of the birds. They are contained in private art collections in North America and Europe. Scott lives in Estes Park, CO and has maintained a banding station since 1997 at the YMCA of the Rockies next to Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP).

Scott began researching the **Northern Pygmy-Owl** because in 1998, when his research began, little was known about them and they are residents in RMNP and the surrounding area. In 2000 and again in 2004 two different pygmy-owls visited his yard on several occasions. He fed them live mice as they perched in the trees during the winter, devised a trap, and then banded them. The pygmy-owls need habitat containing aspen, spruce, and Douglas fir; water (female places water on her brood patch); and dead logs and vegetation for the voles, chipmunks, and mice that comprise their diet. They take such tiny bites that their pellets seldom contain skulls and rarely any bones other than mandibles of prey. Northern Pygmy-Owls are one of the few North American owls that are crepuscular. They hunt by sight during the day. Therefore their ears are symmetrical and they have a poorly defined facial disk. Uniquely, they have short rounded wings and a long tail similar to an accipiter for fast flight among trees. The outer primary feather is not adapted for silent flight like most owls. They hunt feeder birds and voles near homes during the fall and winter. The lowest nest Scott has ever found was 11 feet above the ground. He said he never climbs trees to get to a nest; he makes sure that his scent trail continues on past the nest tree so that predators will walk past it. He considers it most important that the nestlings fledge. Then he bands them.

Scott was first advised to look for the dark-eyed, migratory **Flammulated Owl** in areas frequented by Common Poor-wills and that is where he has subsequently found flams! Both species are insectivorous. Flams ears are symmetrical like the pygmy-owl. Flams migrate into Colorado in late April or May. They are nocturnal and become active about 9 P.M. Scott has observed a male delivering a moth to the female in the nest cavity every 60 seconds! The female remains in the nest until a few days before the nestlings fledge in July. The young do not molt their down; they grow contour feathers over the down and look like an adult in September when it is time to migrate south.

The **Northern Saw-whet Owl** begins nesting in Ponderosa Pine habitat in March. Listen for the male and female to begin calling to each other in February. The saw-whet and the Northern Hawk Owl do not mate for life, whereas the other owls do. The young saw-whets fledge in May, molt in August, and attain adult plumage with the white disk in September. The males stay near their territories through the winter. Their diet is voles, mice, and shrews. Saw-whet pellets contain bones of their prey, but only rarely very small skulls. The female lays one egg every other day, so if there are five young, one is 10 days older than the youngest. If she uses a small Northern Flicker cavity, she will fledge three young (at most). Young birds have a yellow eye and older birds, an orange eye. Scott banded 11 saw-whets during each of the falls of 2006–2008, 32 birds in 2009, and 42 birds so far this fall.

Scott first saw the **Boreal Owl** in 1996 while assisting Dr. Ron Ryder, Professor Emeritus from Colorado State University. The Boreal Owl nests in March above 9,000 feet elevation, so it is more difficult to study. It has densely feathered feet. It needs a large cavity 60 feet above the ground. Its prey includes voles and mice as well as boreal birds such as Pine Grosbeaks and Cassin's Finches. The Boreal Owl can winter in Colorado because there is less snow than in N. Minnesota or Wisconsin and because the Rocky Mountains are home to the Red-backed Vole, which climbs trees to feast on tree lichens. So, "dinner" comes to the owl! The Boreal Owl is large enough that its pellet contains skulls of its prey.

Scott provided a rapt audience with an excellent presentation. Contact him through his website <http://www.scottrashid.com/> to order his book or art.

Submitted by Kay Niyo

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

PRESIDENT

Charles Thornton-Kolbe, 2284 S Josephine Street, Denver CO 80210, 303.777.7588
Charles@pibird.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Lynn Willcockson, 2698 S Niagara, Denver CO 80224 303.757.7000
lynnliz2698@aol.com

TREASURER

Bob Shade, 9353 W Nevada Place, Lakewood CO 80226-3029, 303.975.2476
WRSHADE3@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Niña Routh (10) nrouth@copper.net

DIRECTORS

Alison Kondler (13) fieldbirder@msn.com
 Rick and Connie Steinkamp (12)
ricconcal@comcast.net
 John Drummond (12)
jxdrummo@aol.com
 Carol Blackard (11)
carol-blackard@comcast.net
 Ira Sanders (11) greatauk@msn.com
 Chris Blakeslee (10) chrisabla@aol.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742 303.771.3431
mcburger3@juno.com

HISTORIAN

Warren Finch, 303.233.3372

FIELD TRIP COORDINATORS

Patty Echelmeyer, 303.233.4947,
 Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct
 Jackie King, 303.287.1644,
 Feb, May, Aug, Nov
 Meredith Anderson, 303.280.8576
 Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec
 Support Field Trip Coordinators: Mary Geder
 303.986.6127, Alison Kondler 303.904.9140 and
 Jill Boice 303.863.7580

Lark Bunting Editor

Veronica Holt, 303.646.3829
veronicaholt@Q.com

Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750

Joyce Takamine, Alison Hilf and Dick Schottler.

Communications

The Lark Bunting has been published monthly since October 1965 for members of the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO), and copies are routinely sent to The Denver Museum of Nature and Science for data preservation. It provides monthly evening program information, upcoming trip information, trip reports from the previous month, and articles of interest to the Denver birder. Submissions from membership are welcome and openly solicited. They must be emailed to the Editor no later than the 5th of the month for the following month's issue. The Editor reserves the right to accept or refuse any submissions, and to edit any announcement. *The Lark Bunting* does not accept advertising.

www.dfobirders.org is the DFO official website. It showcases the featured speaker at the monthly meetings, posts announcements, and lists for download the upcoming trip schedules and trip reports.

Colorado Rare Bird Alert is sponsored by DFO and RMBO. It is a taped message accessed by calling 303.659.8750 and also appears on CoBirds. The tape informs callers of rare or unusual bird sightings throughout Colorado. It also informs callers of upcoming field trips, meetings, cancellations, and anyone can report sightings at the end of the message.

Cobirds is an internet bird sighting discussion list available through www.cfo.org. Communications about DFO monthly evening programs and upcoming trips are also posted on this List Serve.

Cancellations of any event are rare, but will be announced on all of the above sites except the printed newsletter. Members are encouraged to routinely check for cancellations, especially in severe inclement weather.

Field Trip/Count Reports: Debra Bogar, 9475 W. Hinsdale Pl., Littleton, CO 80232, 303.932-7607, dafb@earthlink.net.

Upcoming Field Trips

Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct: Scheduled by Patty Echelmeyer, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128 dacbcoc@comcast.net

Feb, May, Aug, Nov includes Spring count schedule, scheduled by Jackie King, compiled by Cris Cook, 8511 W Star Circle, Littleton, CO 80128, cris@pcisys.net

Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec includes fall and Christmas count schedules, scheduled by Meredith Anderson meander303@mac.com

Tuesday Birders Contact: Mary Keithler phone is 303-771-1421, email mkeithler@yahoo.com also Dave Hill is back-up contact person. Dave Hill's number is 303-796-0638; email d_d_hill@comcast.net.

The Denver Field Ornithologists' Organization

Purpose: The prime objective of the club is to promote interest in the study and preservation of birds and their habitats. Members are encouraged to learn about birds in the field, noting species and numbers, while familiarizing themselves with their songs and calls, as well as habits and habitats.

Regular Meetings: Monthly DFO Meetings are held at the Museum of Nature and Science in the Ricketson Auditorium. The meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month, except May, June, July and December. Dates and topics of the meetings are on the Colorado Rare Bird Alert 303.659.8750 and www.dfobirders.org and in this newsletter. Park on the north side of museum and walk around to the west door between 7.00 and 7.30pm. If late, enter through security/volunteer door. Meetings start promptly at 7.30pm and are open to the public without charge.

Field Trips: These are scheduled for almost every Saturday and Sunday, visiting a variety of habitats in the Denver area. Occasionally, special trips are arranged to good birding areas in other areas in Colorado and surrounding states. Usually it is necessary to bring a lunch, and to wear hiking shoes or boots. Carpooling is encouraged (to get the most from bird watching, as well as conserving time and energy. Carpooling charge is .30 cents per mile, divided by the number of birders in the car, including the driver.

Lark Bunting: the DFO monthly newsletter is issued to all members. It lists upcoming field trips, along with detailed reports of previous trips and check lists, along with interesting sightings reported by our members. Depending on the type of membership it is either sent by email, or USPS first class mail.

Rare Bird Alert: With the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, DFO sponsors this list of sighting of rare or unusual birds, located on the Colorado Field Ornithologists Web Site.

Denver Field Ornithologists 2011 Membership Application

Please state type of membership:

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

All memberships expire December 31, but are valid for the next year if paid after October 1st.

The Denver Field Ornithologists has been recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Contributions to the DFO are tax deductible, if adjusted for services and goods received. DFO membership fees with electronic newsletter delivery are fully tax deductible. Contributions to the endowment fund are fully tax deductible. DFO memberships with mailed newsletters (the \$30 Membership), should only deduct \$7 (as the cost of printing, producing and mailing the newsletter is \$23.00 per mailed newsletter). Fees for mailing the field trip reports are not tax-deductible.

- ☐ One year Family Membership (Electronic Lark Bunting) \$20.00
- ☐ One year Family Membership (First Class Mail is \$10 more) \$30.00
- ☐ Student Membership (age 21 or younger) \$5.00

For those who wish to have the field trip reports mailed to them, rather than downloading from the DFO web site, please add an additional \$10 to your regular membership.

- ☐ Contribution to the DFO Educational Endowment Fund \$_____

DFO grants to individuals or organizations whose mission fosters public education concerning various aspects of the study of birds such as their identification, voice, habits, habitats, as well as their preservation.

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____

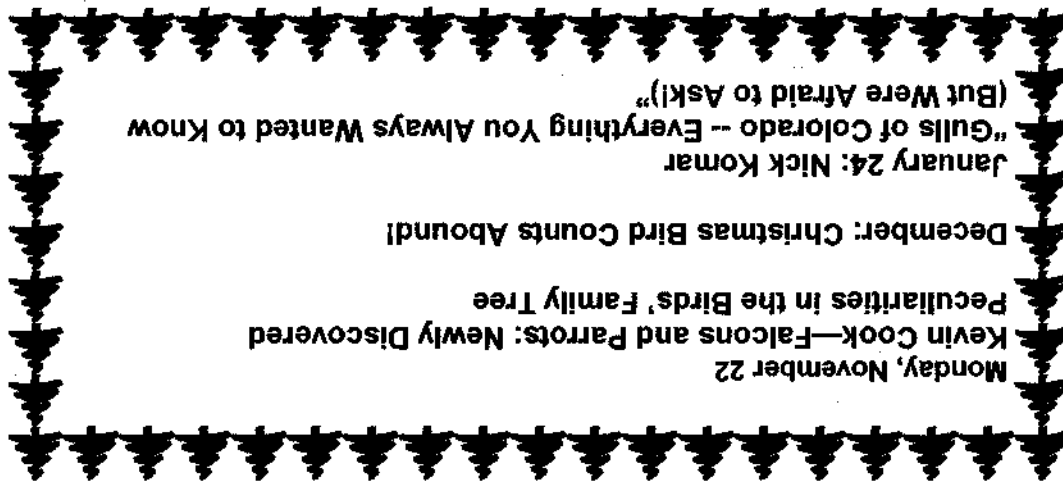
State _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Electronic Lark Bunting Email address: _____

Please make checks payable to Denver Field Ornithologists and send to
Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Place, Englewood CO 80111-5742



Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742